

JUMP COMICS



巻ノ十八

賭



綱手の決意!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-

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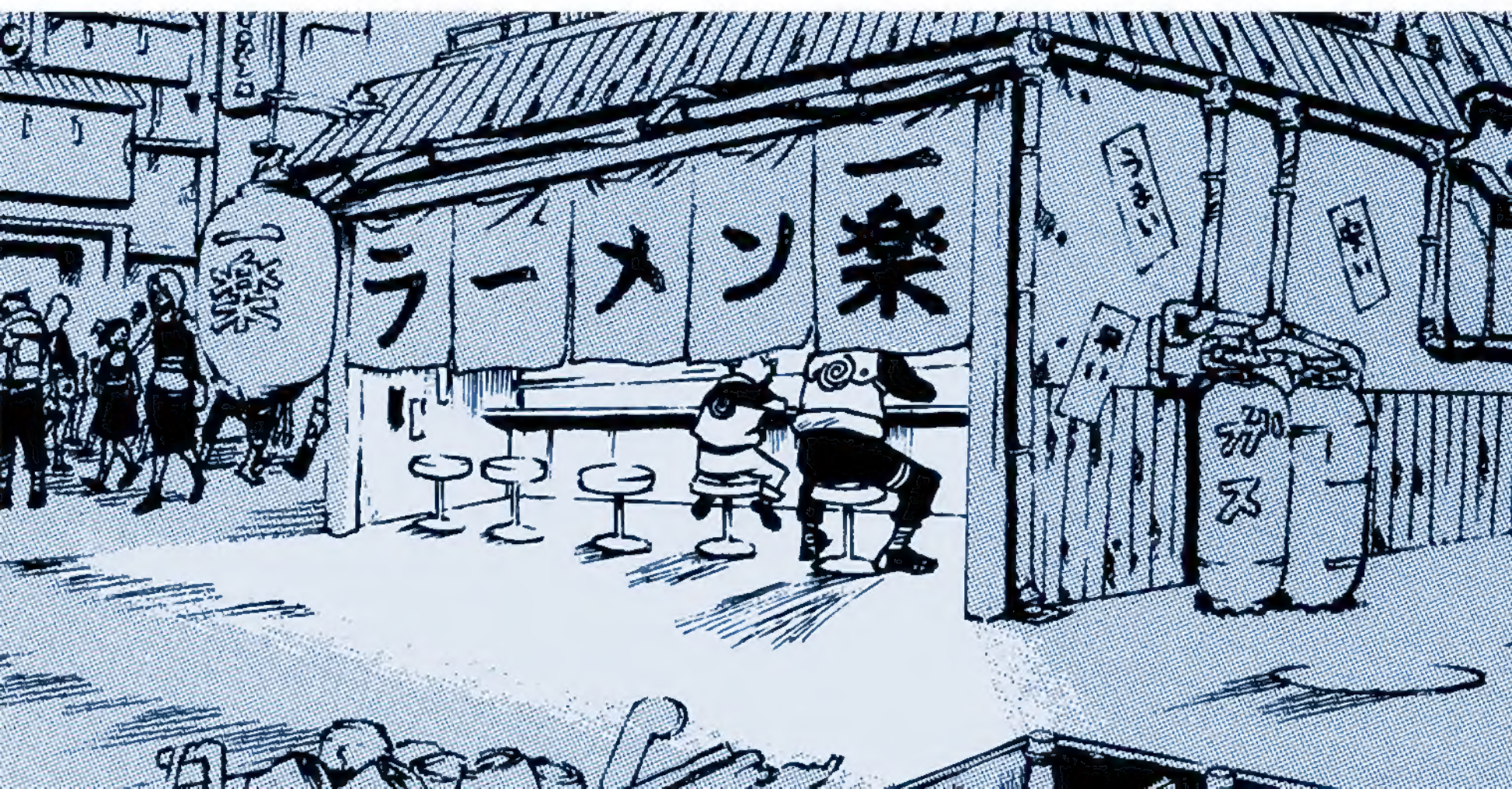
岸本 齊史

Recently, my shoulder pain has been getting worse...And it seems to always be my left shoulder. Why does my left shoulder get stiff when I'm right-handed? It's one of the Seven Great Mysteries of Kishimoto.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2003



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



JUMP COMICS



NARUTO

ナルト

巻ノ十八

綱手の決意!!



岸本斉史

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春野サクラ

オロチ まる
大蛇丸



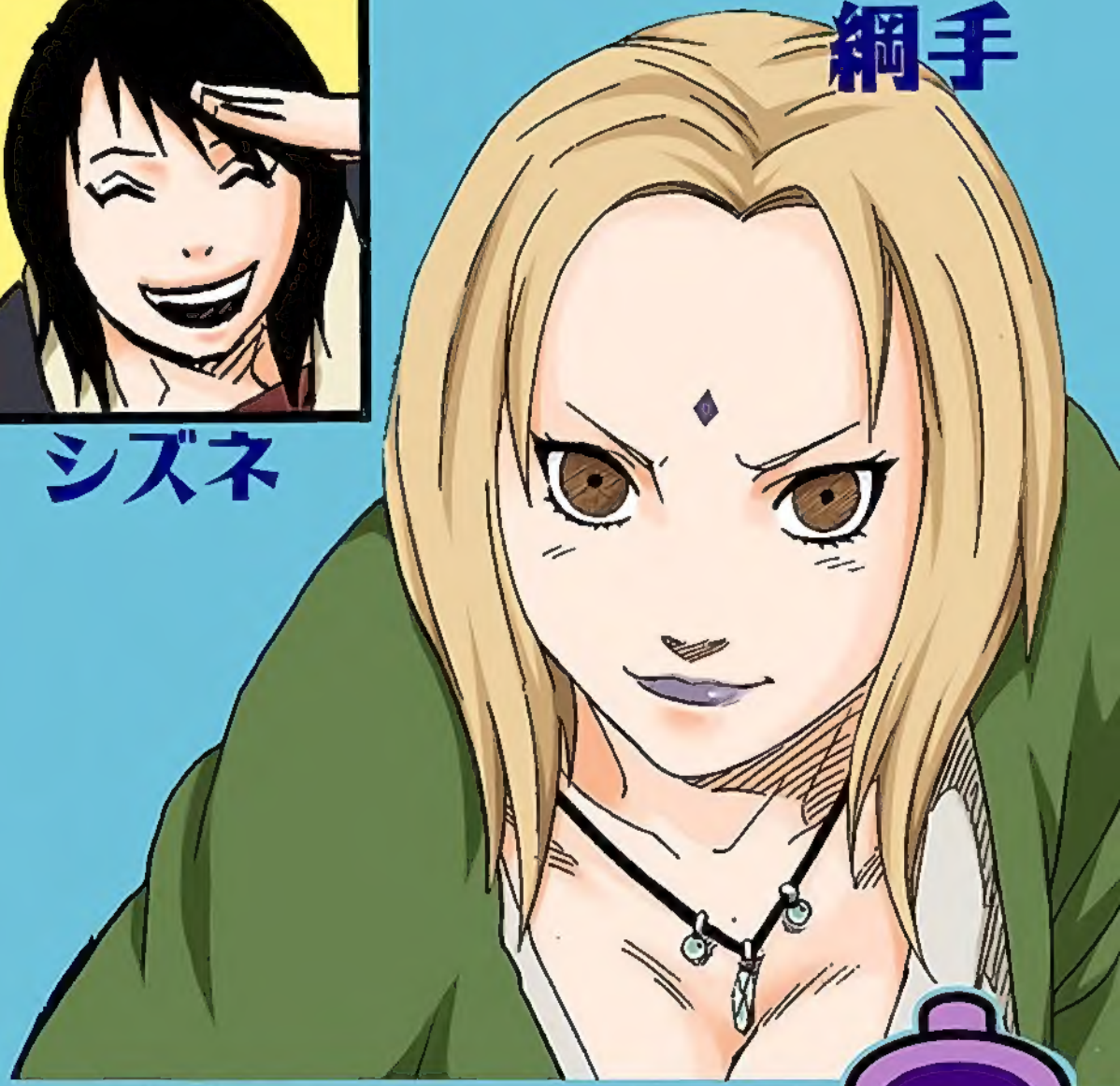
やくし
薬師カブト



じらいや
自来也



シズネ



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THANKS!!!



NARUTO

VOL. 18
TSUNADE'S CHOICE

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ナンバー

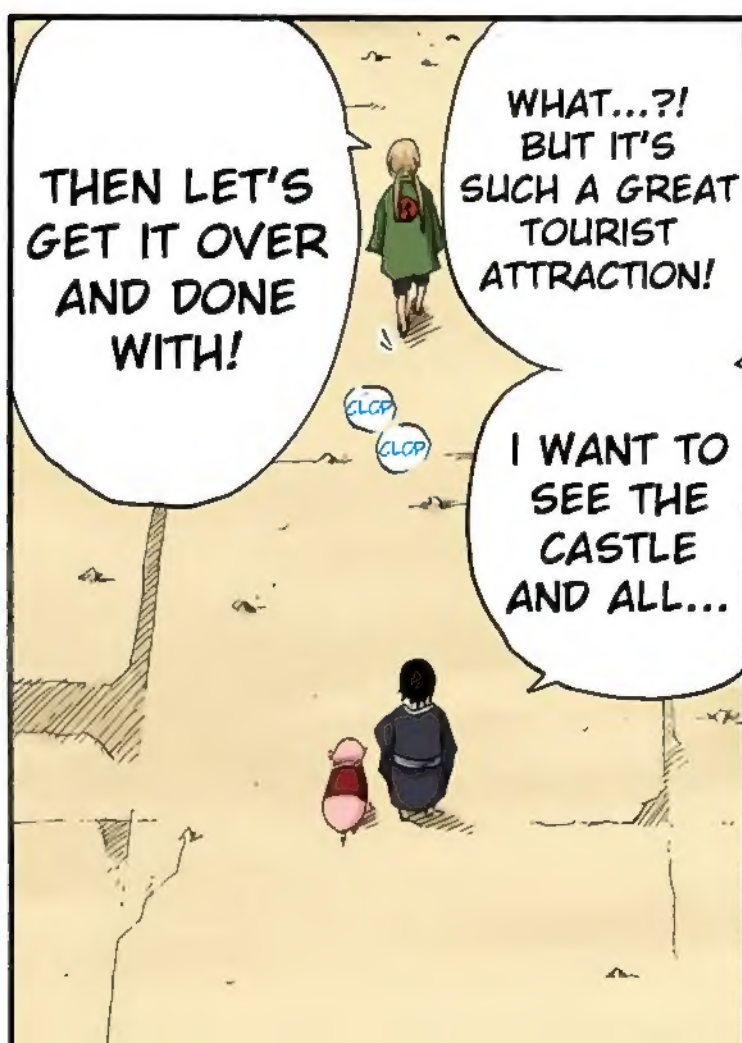
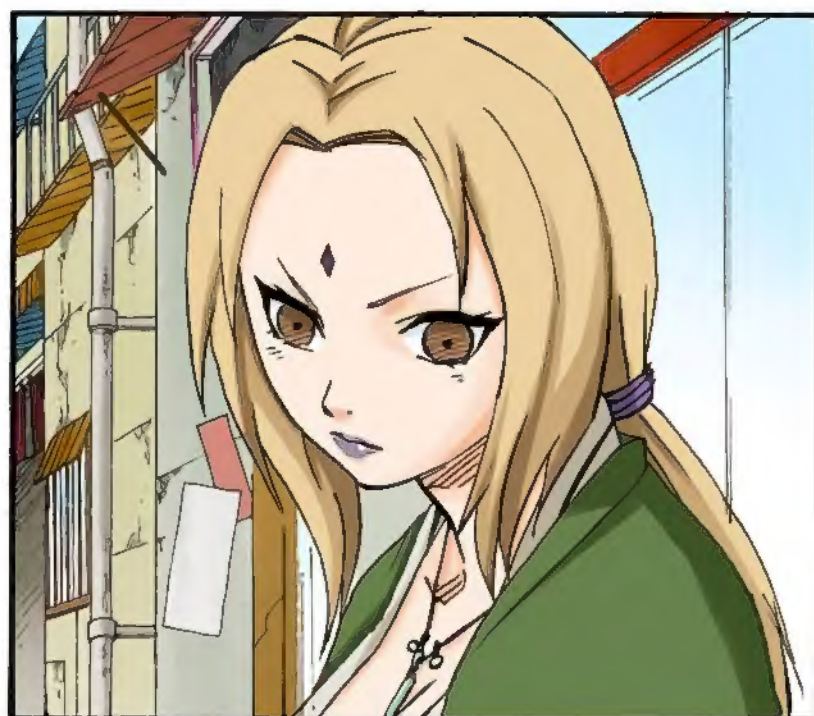
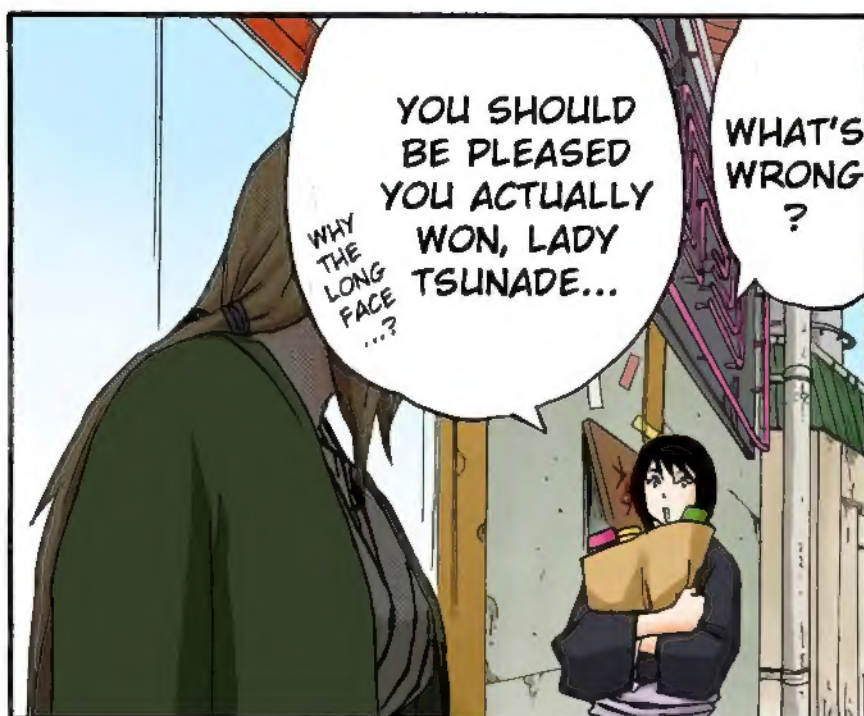


154 : CONVERGENCE





(SIGN: PACHINKO)





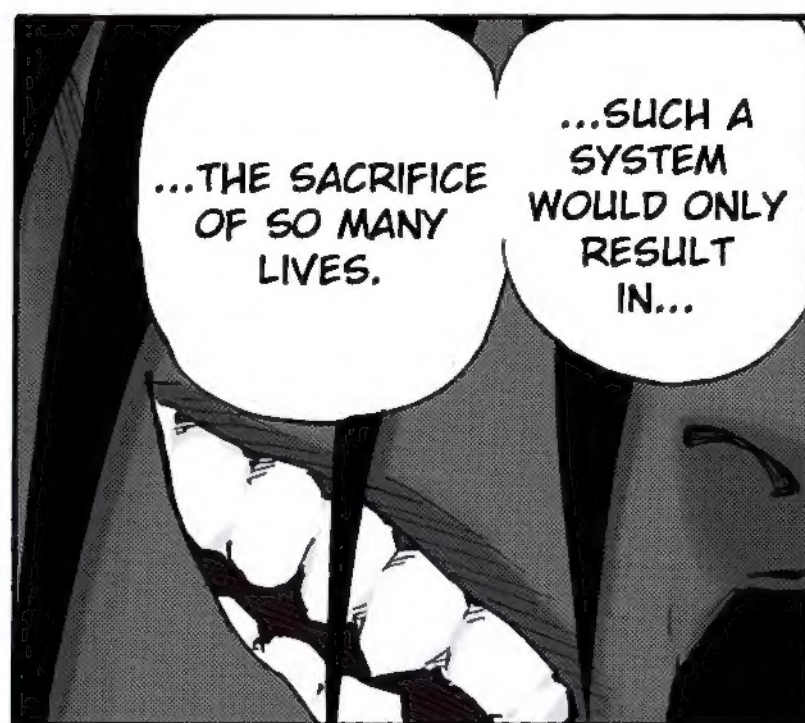


IT WAS
PURE AND
SIMPLE WAR
EXPERIENCE
THAT LAID THE
GROUNDWORK
FOR THAT
IDEA...

HUMPH
...

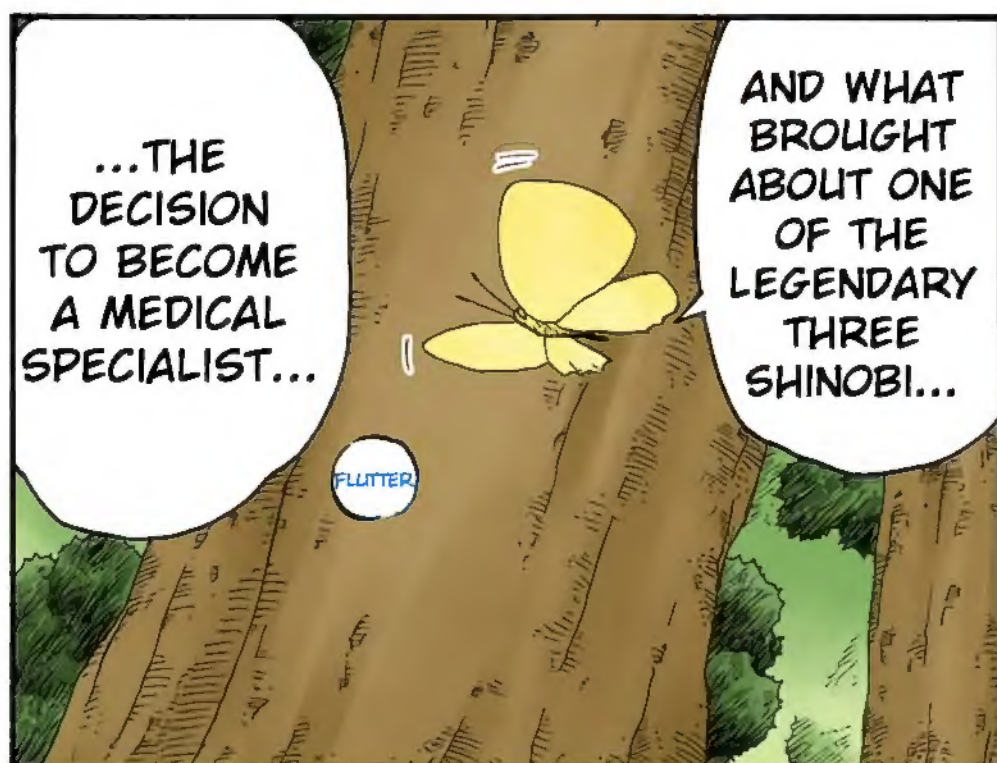


.....



...THE SACRIFICE
OF SO MANY
LIVES.

...SUCH A
SYSTEM
WOULD ONLY
RESULT
IN...



...THE
DECISION
TO BECOME
A MEDICAL
SPECIALIST...

AND WHAT
BROUGHT
ABOUT ONE
OF THE
LEGENDARY
THREE
SHINOBI...

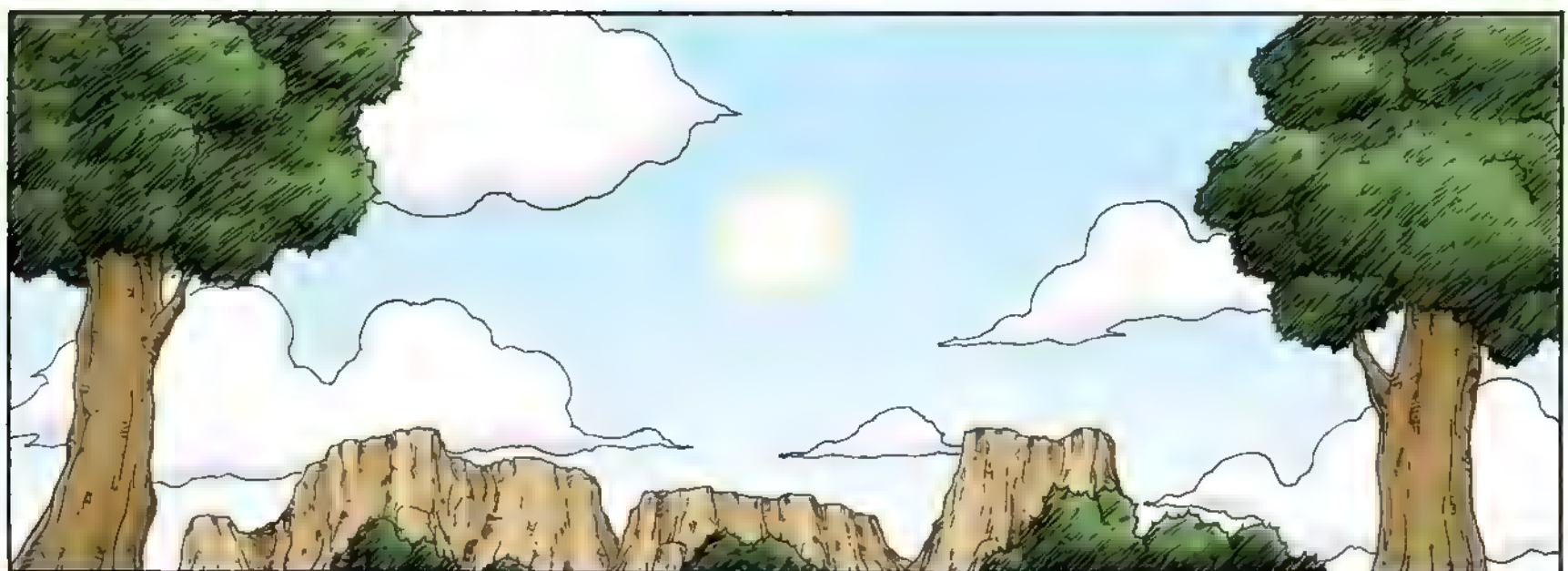
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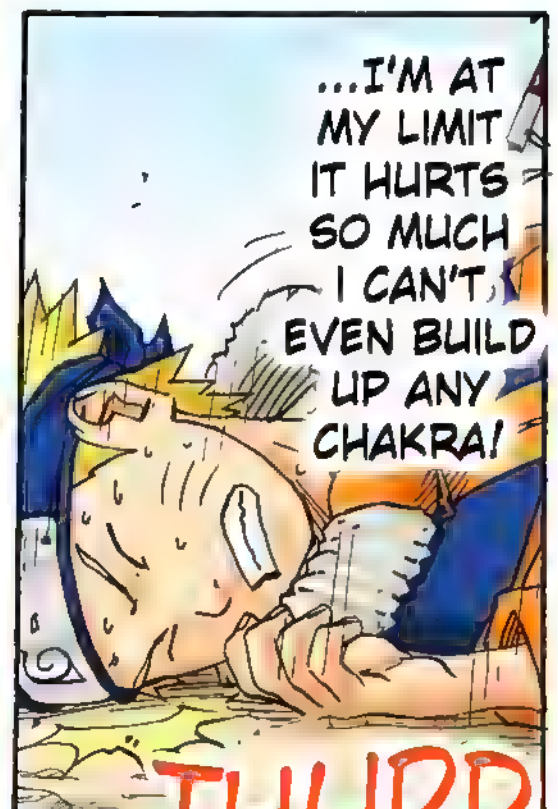
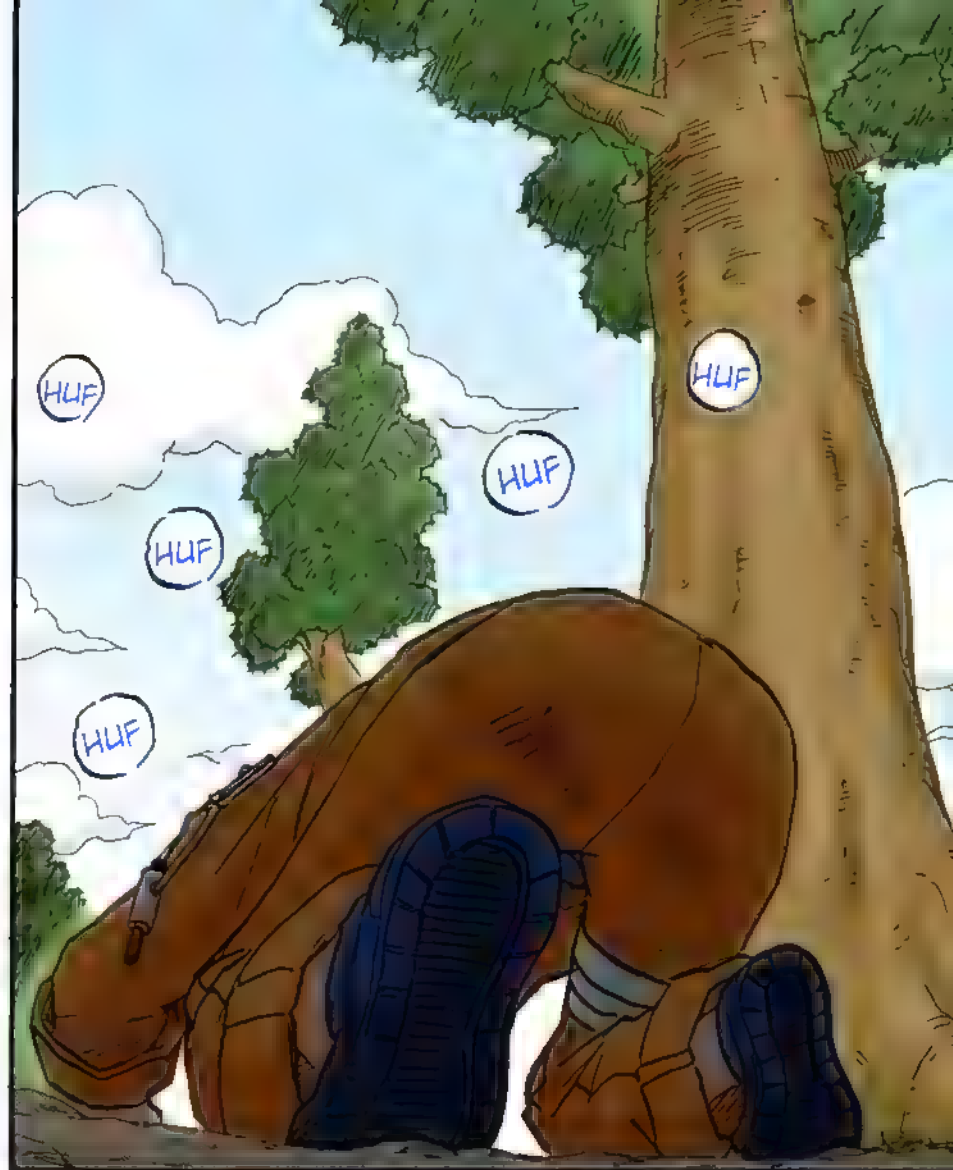


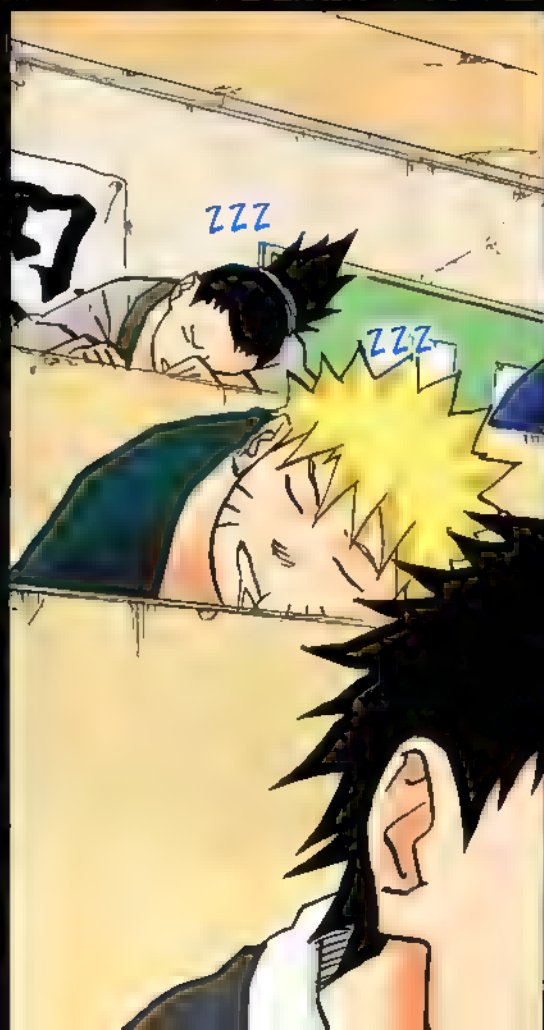
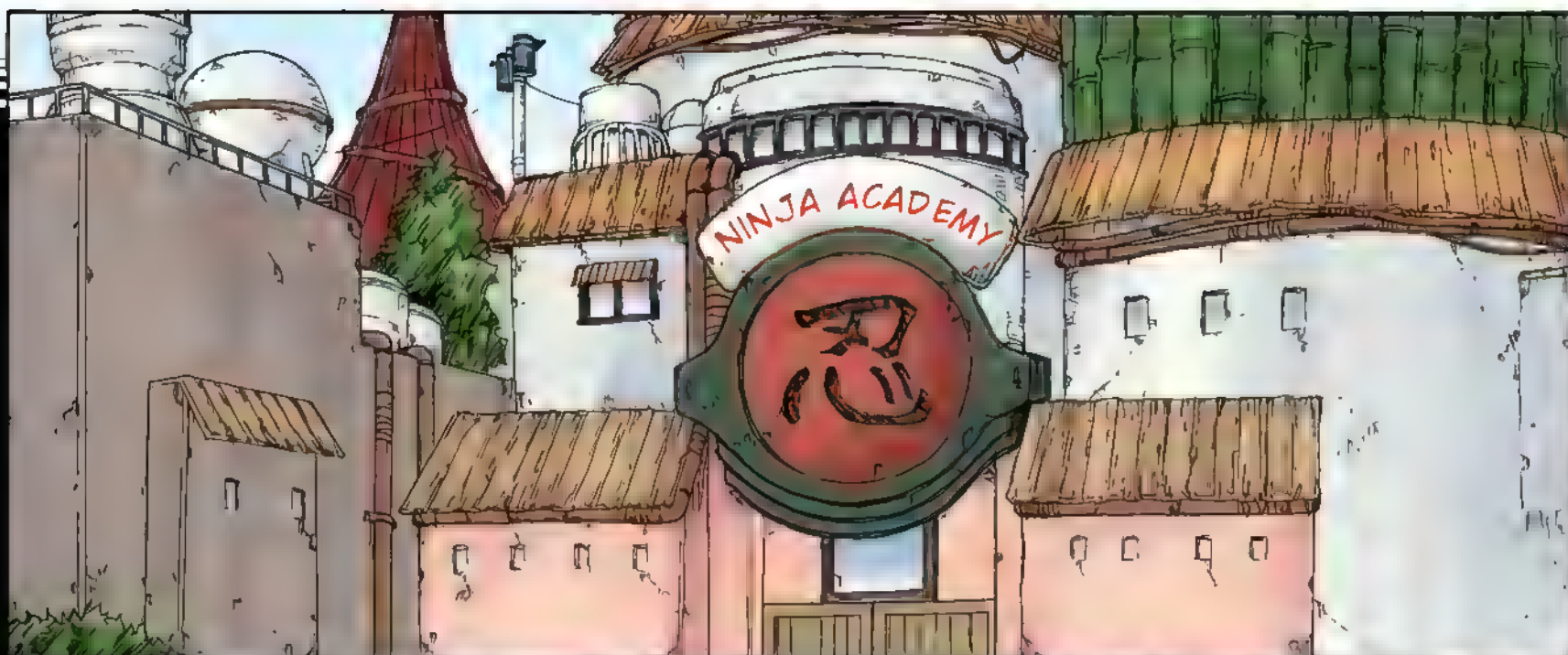
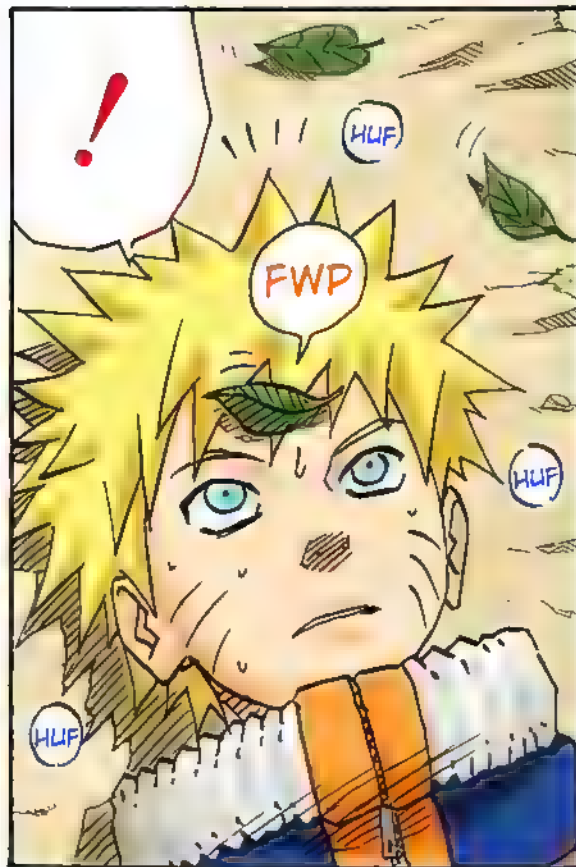
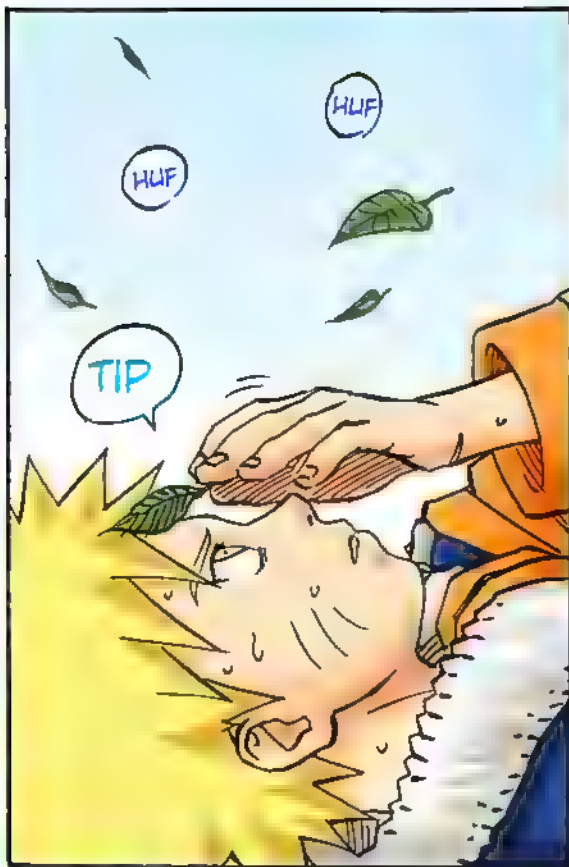
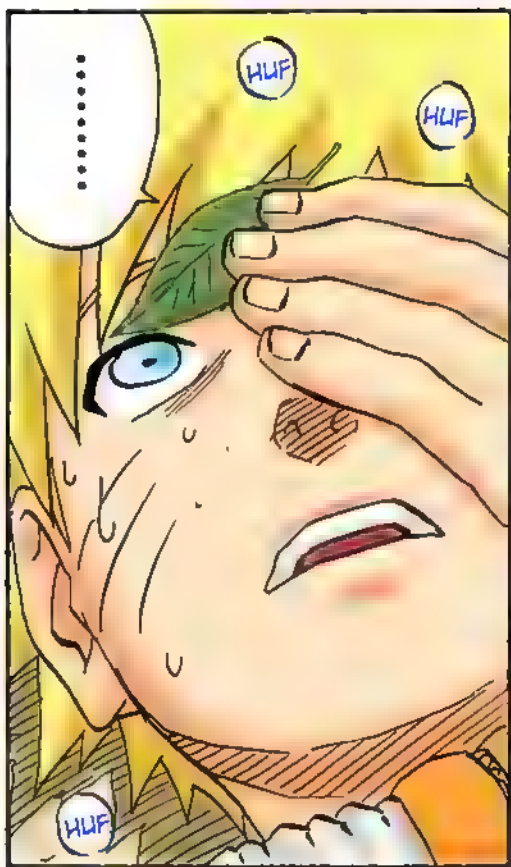
PEOPLE
ONLY REALIZE
THE TRUE VALUE
OF SOMETHING
AFTER THEY
HAVE LOST IT.

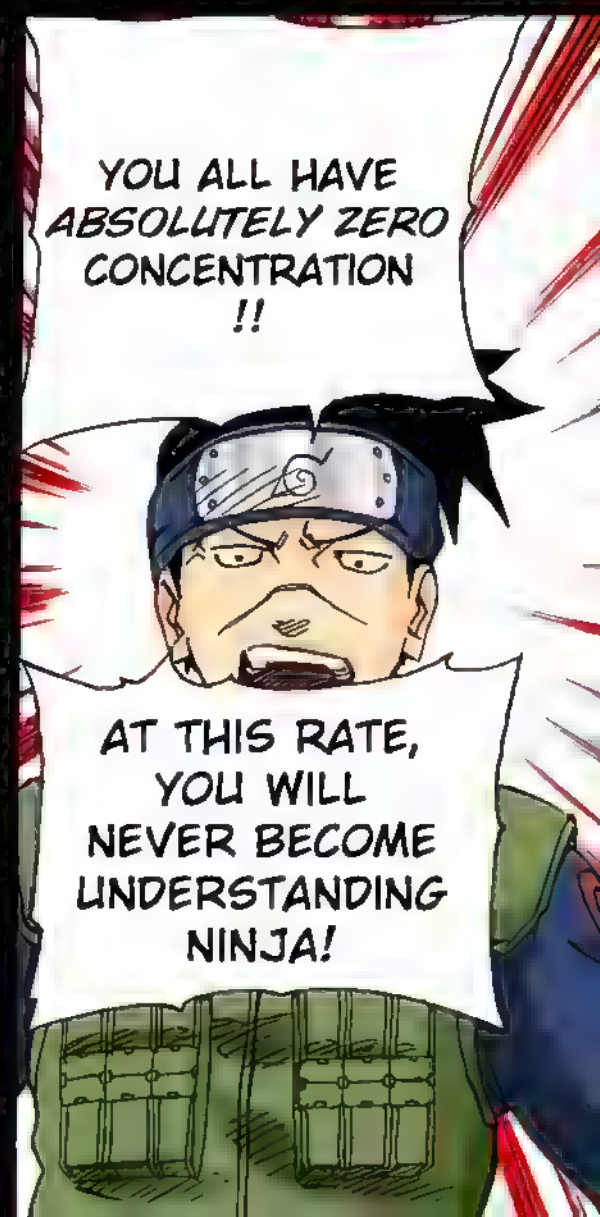
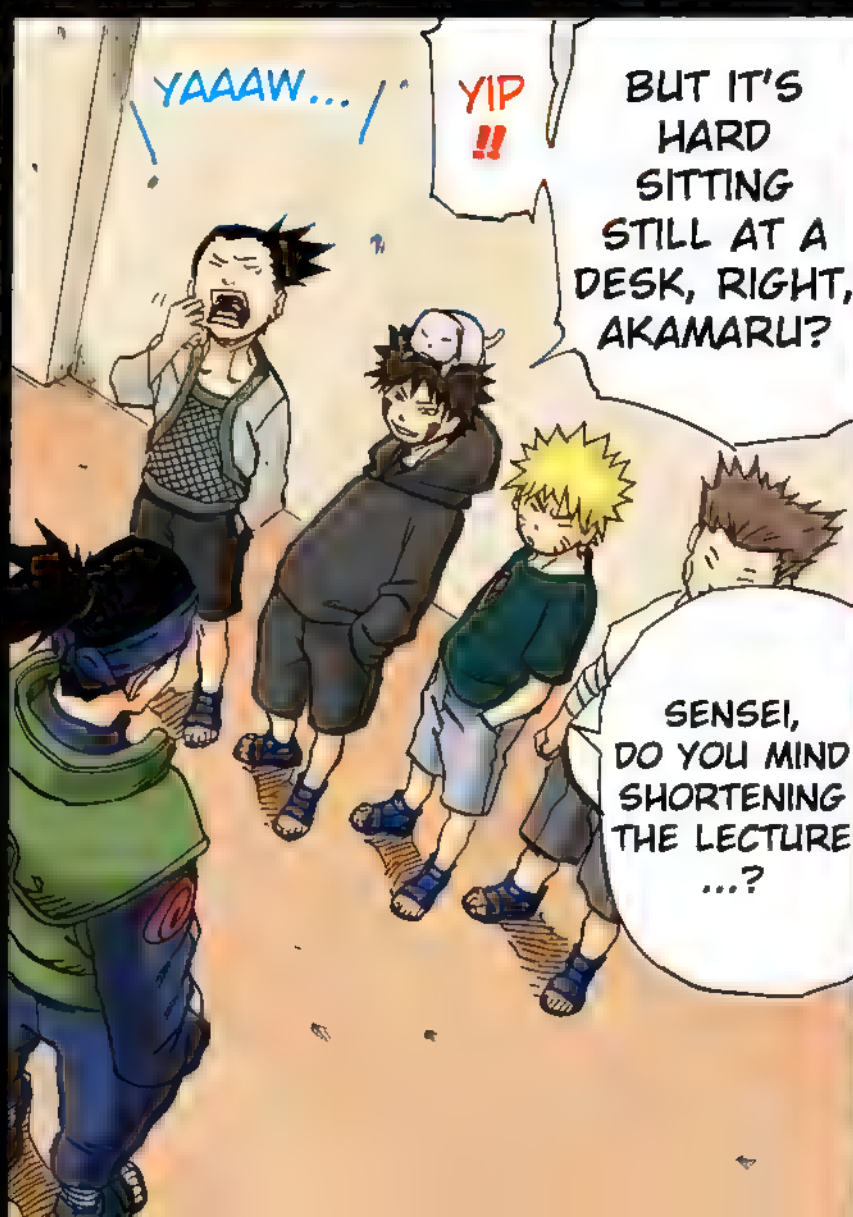
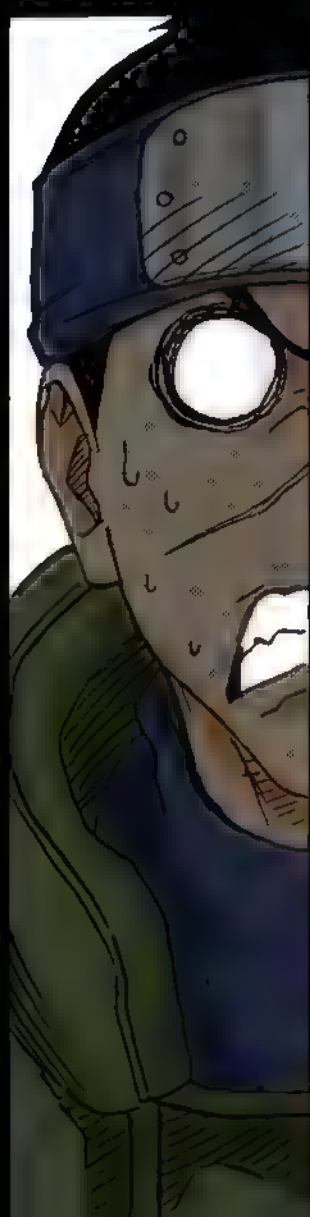
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FLIT



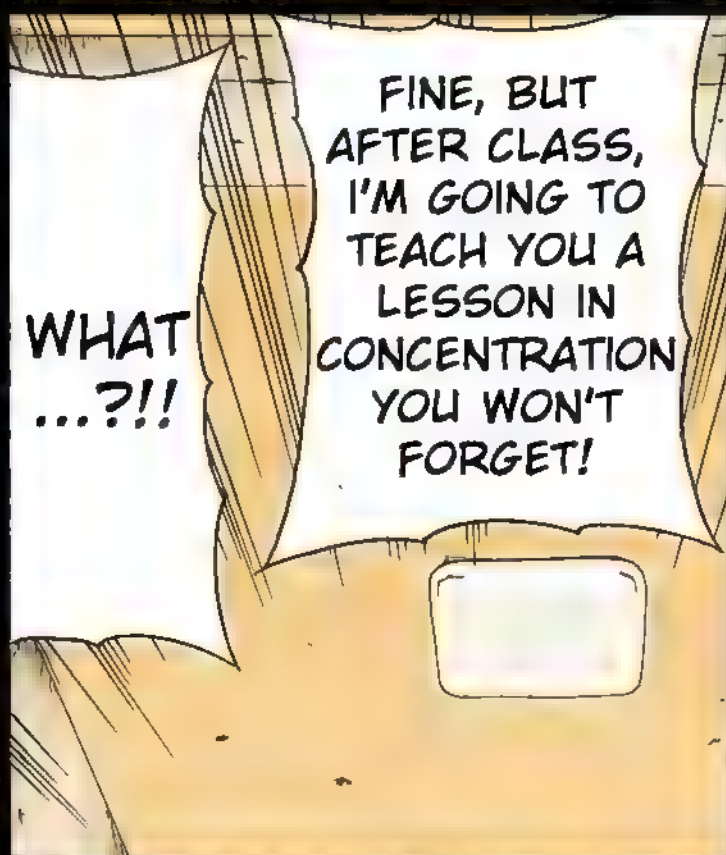








WHAT'S THIS?



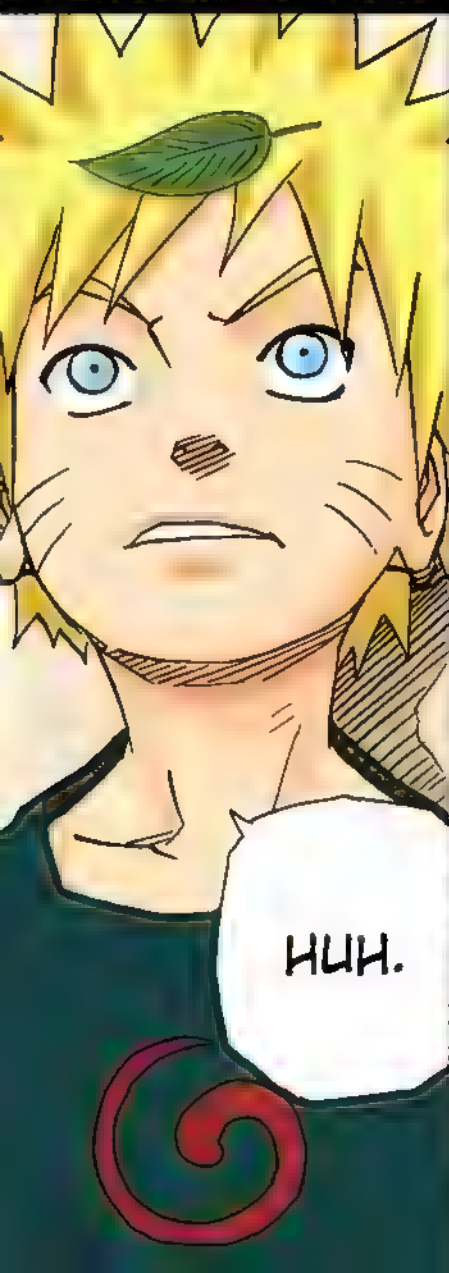
WHAT ...?!!

FINE, BUT AFTER CLASS, I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON IN CONCENTRATION YOU WON'T FORGET!

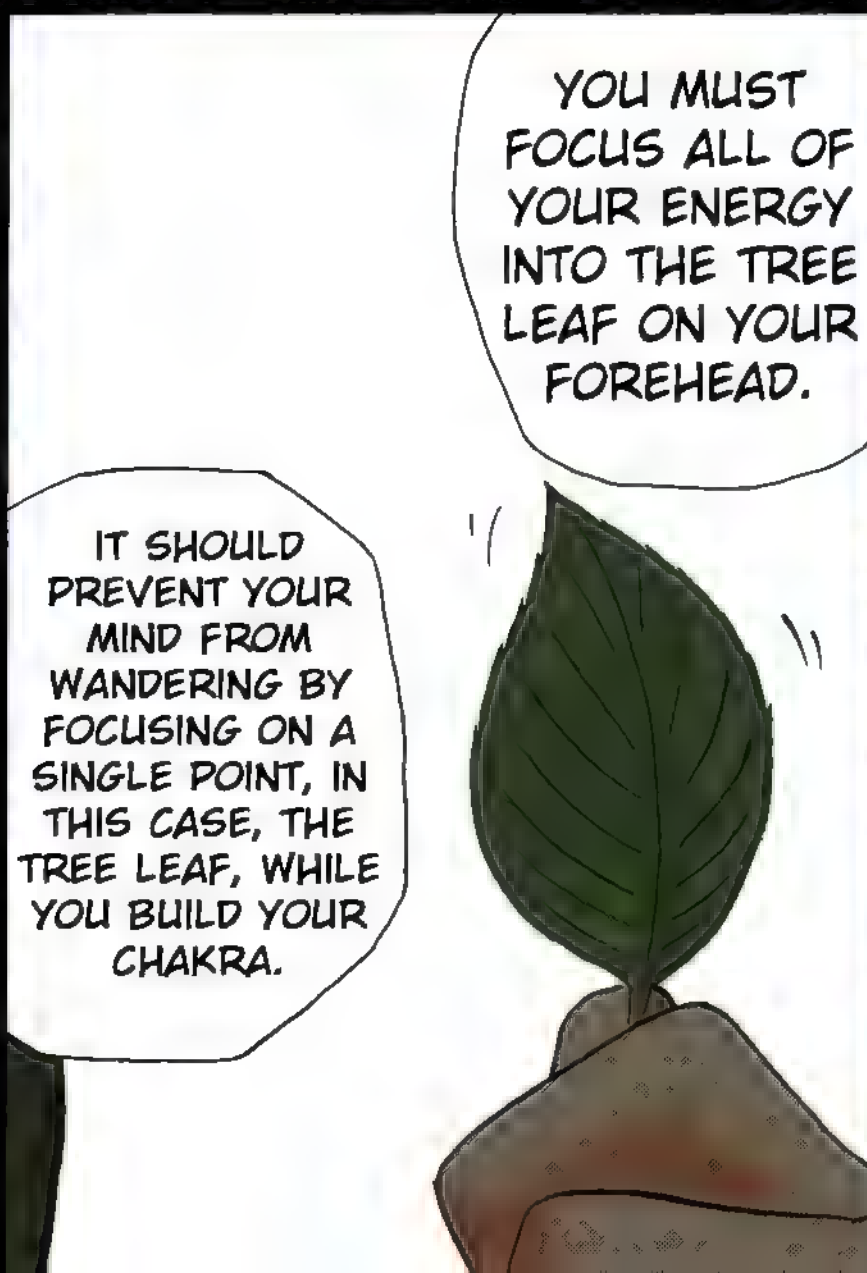


...IS A FOCUSING EXERCISE THAT OUR KONOHA PREDECESSORS PRACTICED EVERY DAY.

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEARN...

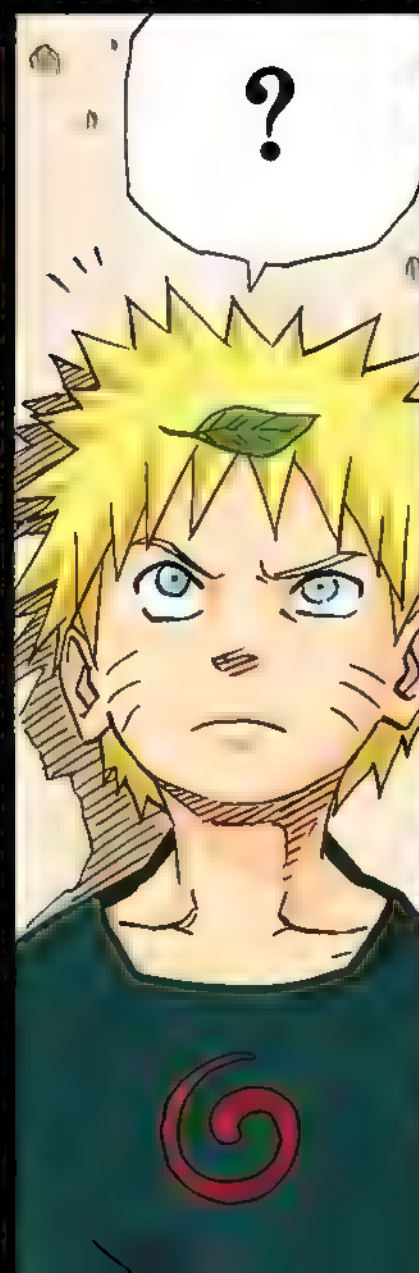


HUH.

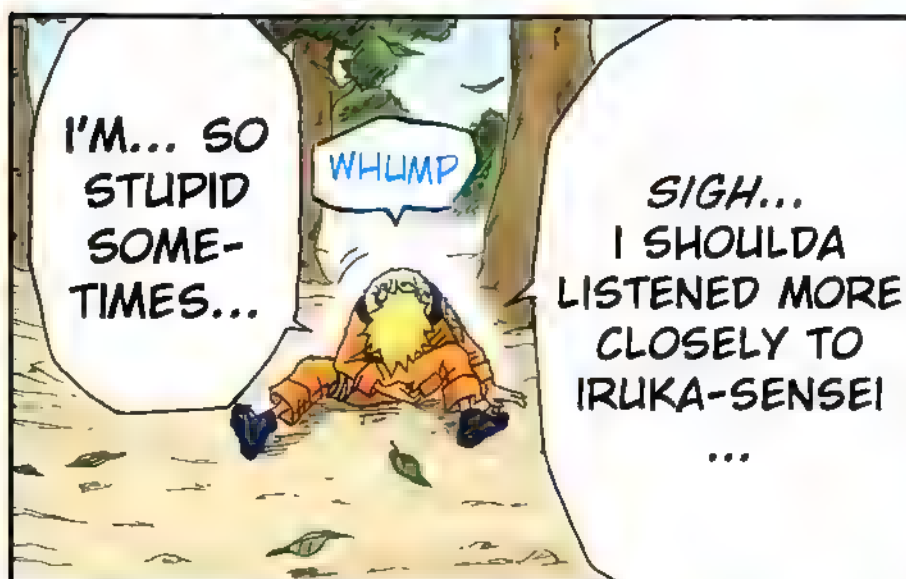
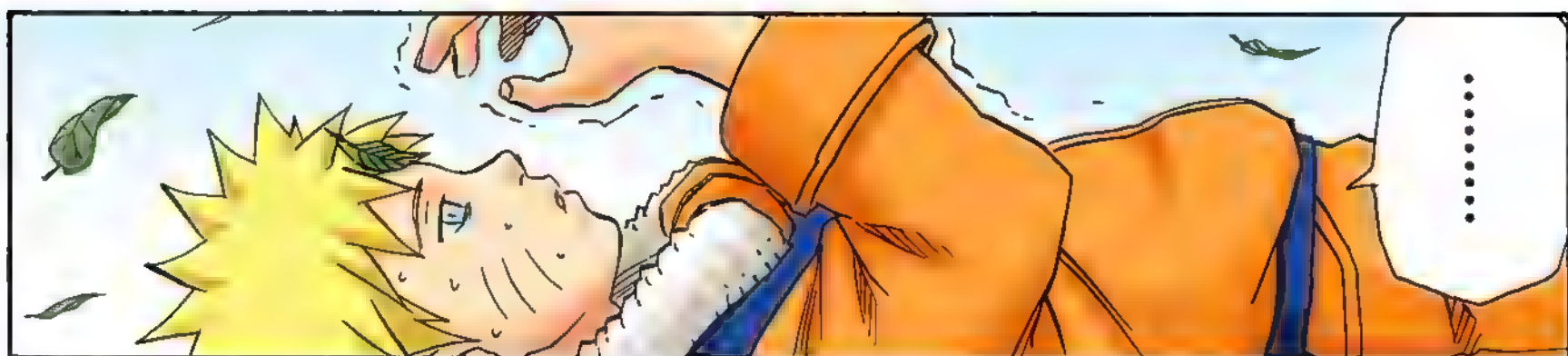
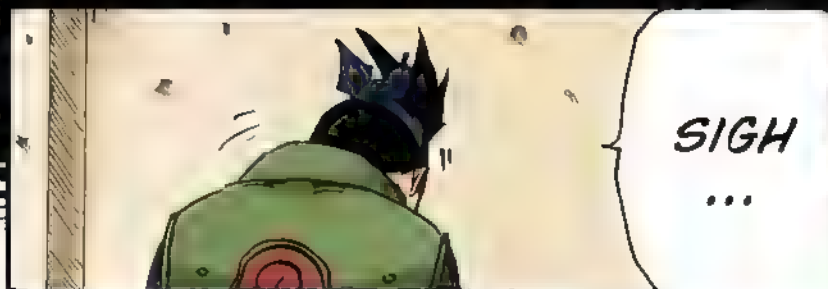
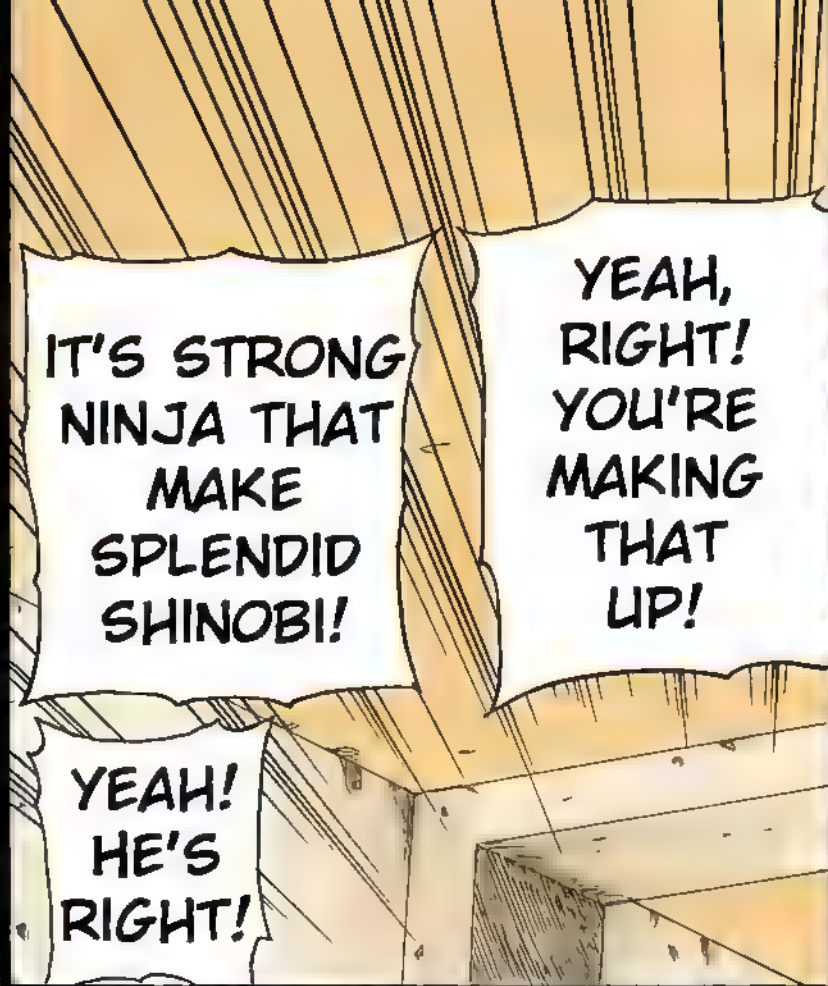


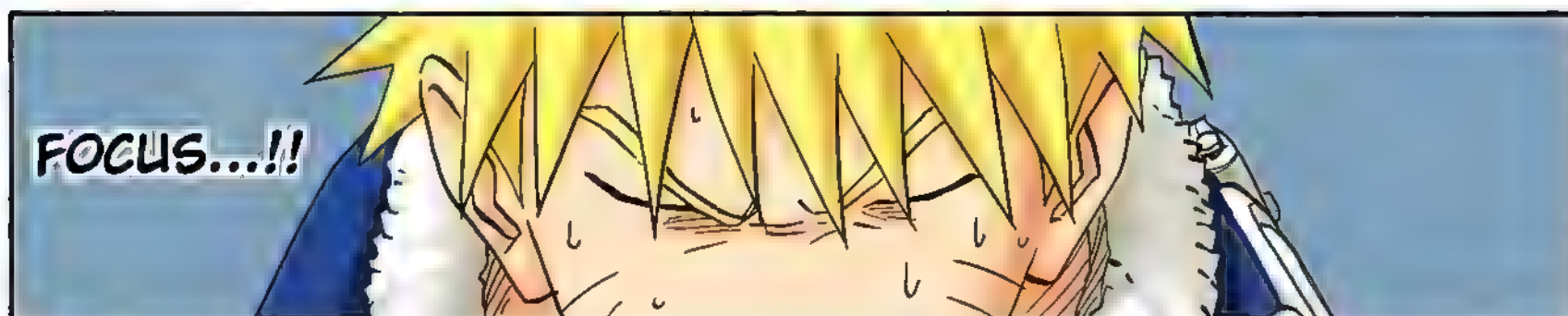
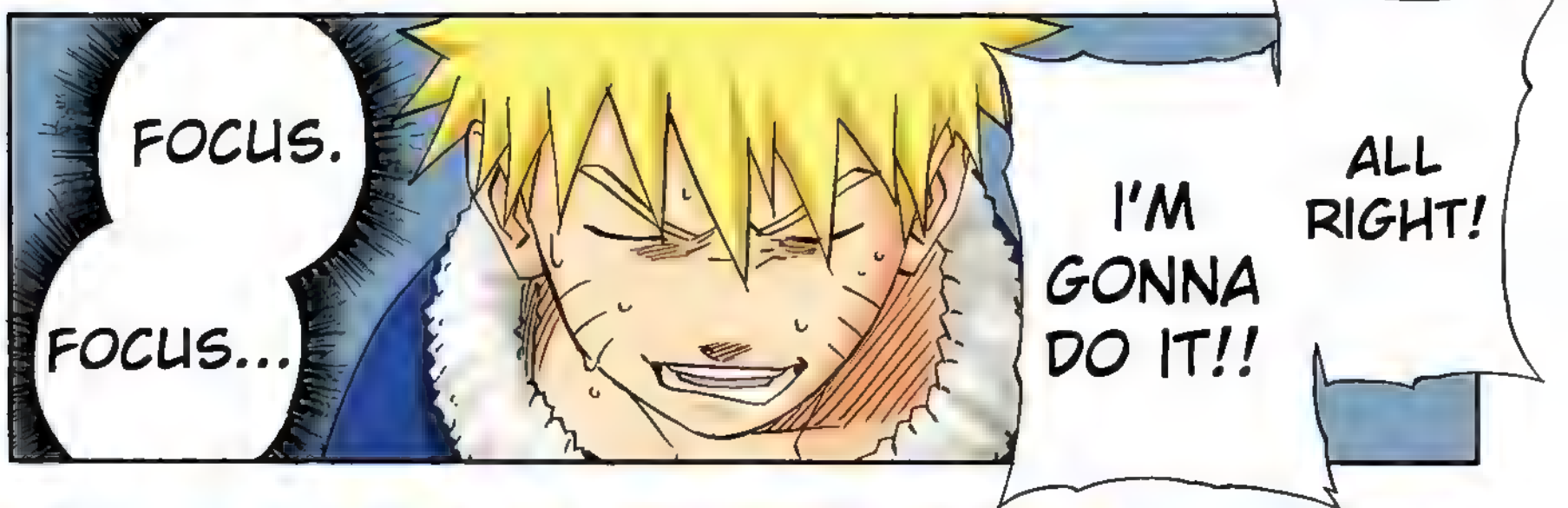
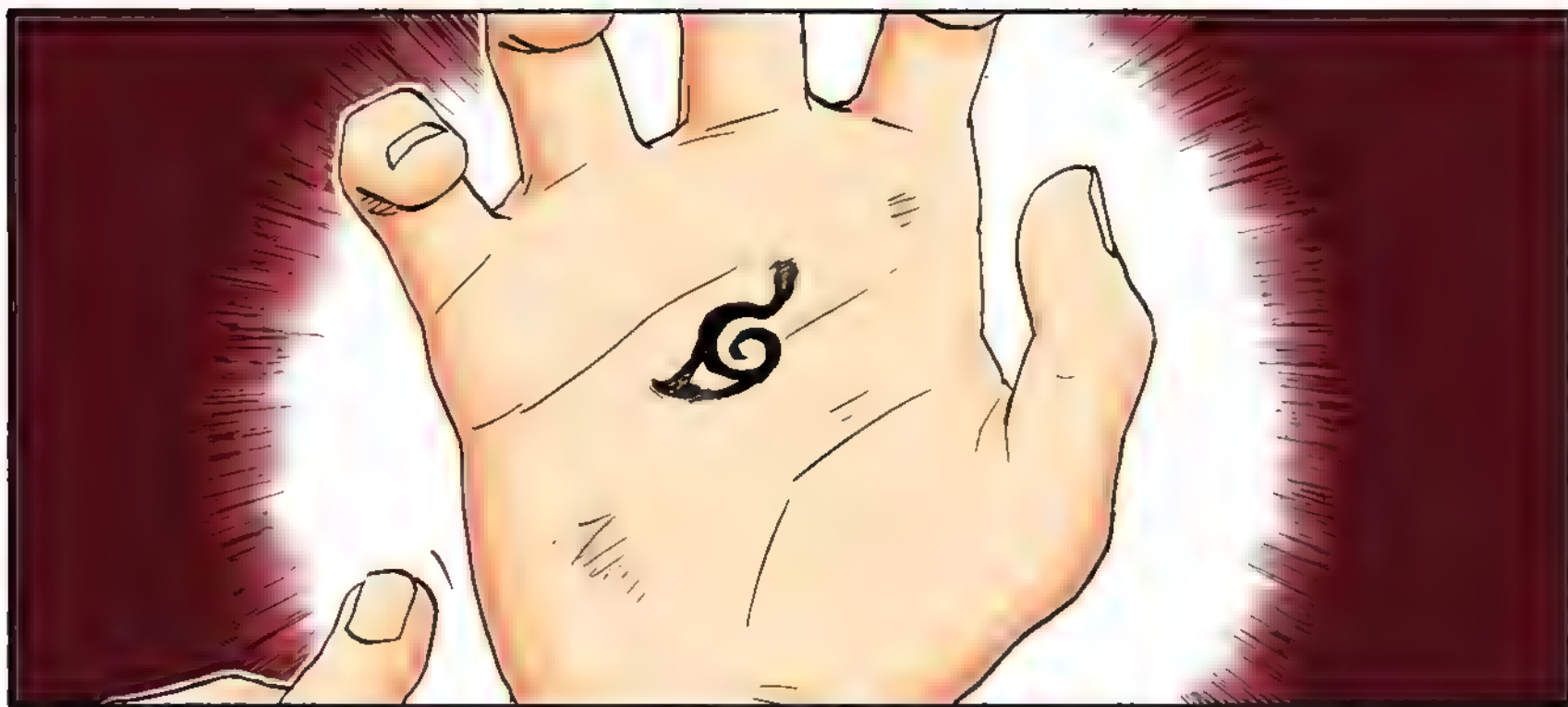
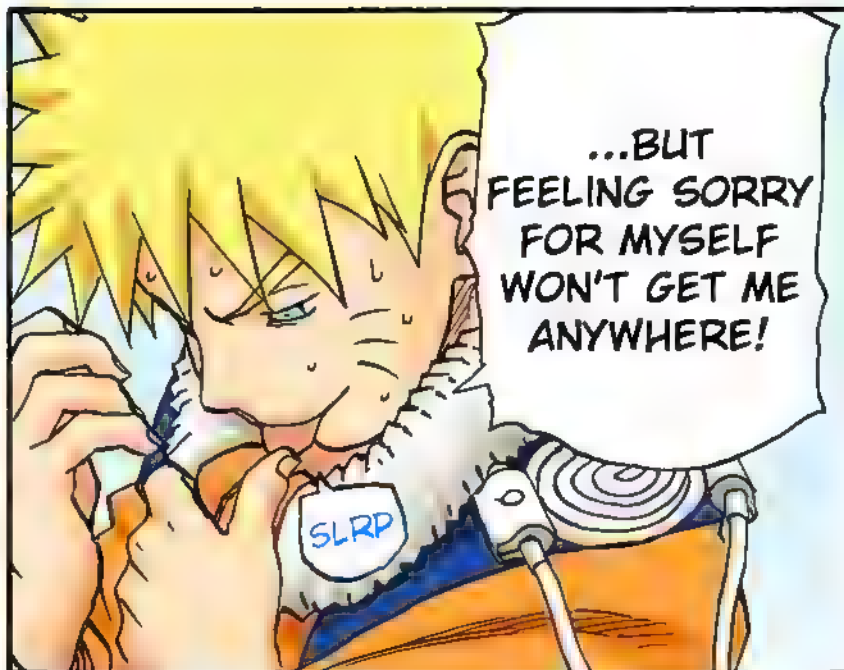
YOU MUST FOCUS ALL OF YOUR ENERGY INTO THE TREE LEAF ON YOUR FOREHEAD.

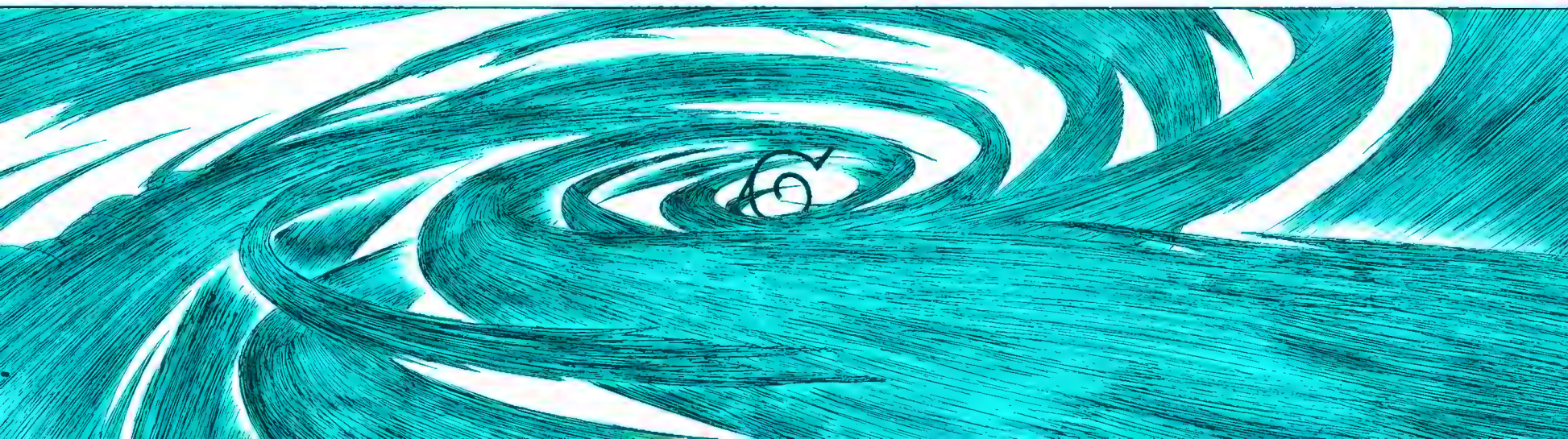
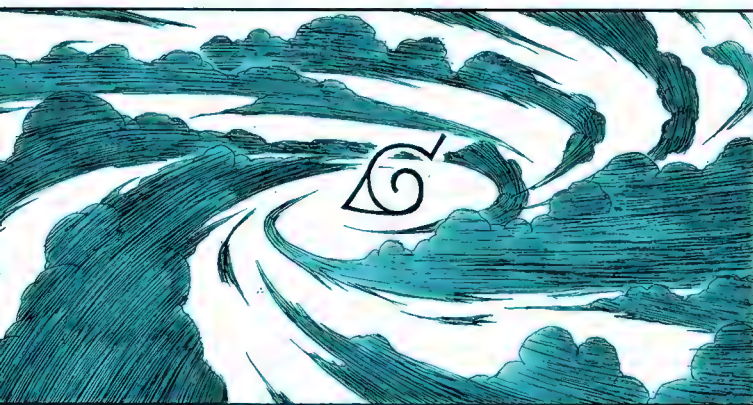
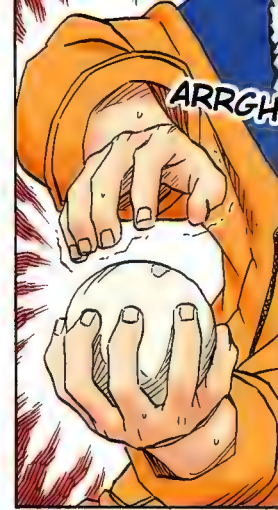
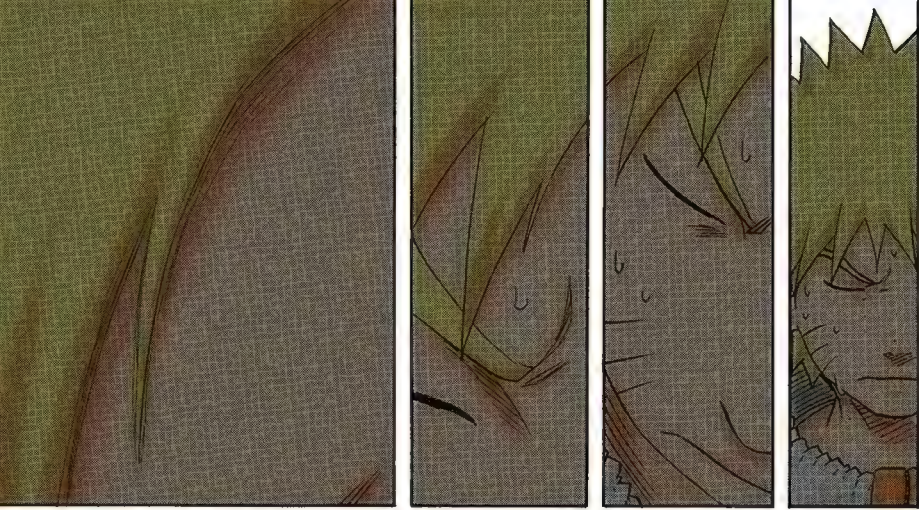
IT SHOULD PREVENT YOUR MIND FROM WANDERING BY FOCUSING ON A SINGLE POINT, IN THIS CASE, THE TREE LEAF, WHILE YOU BUILD YOUR CHAKRA.

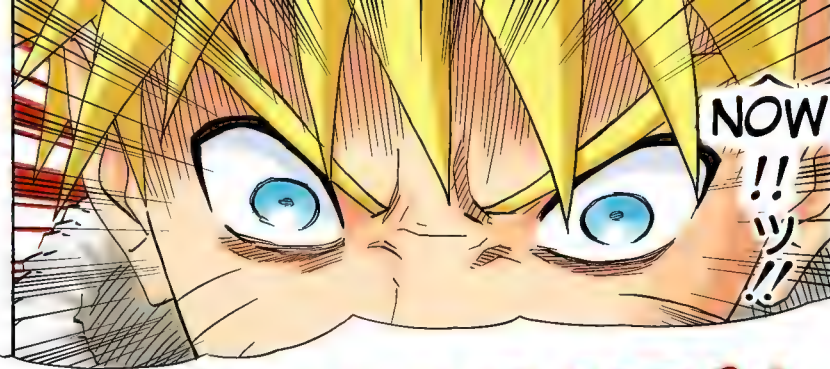
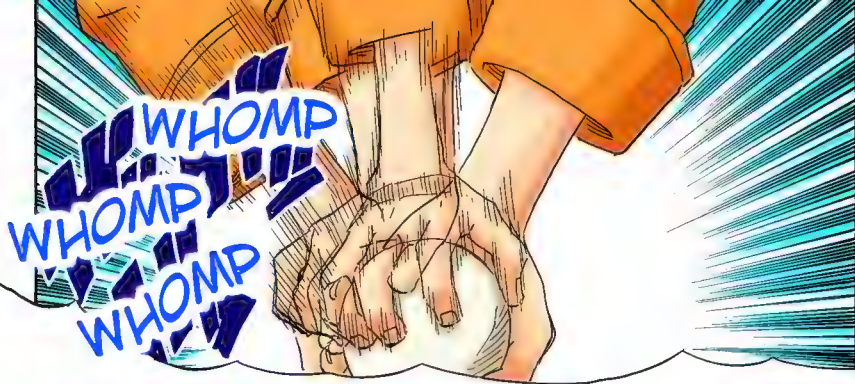


?



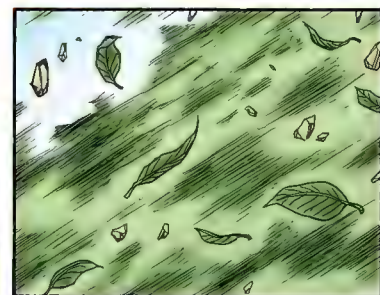
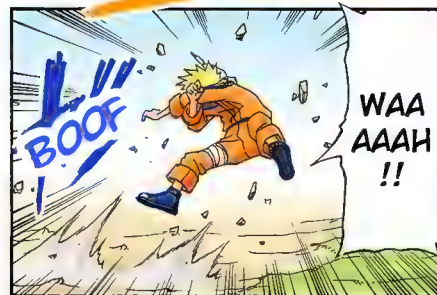
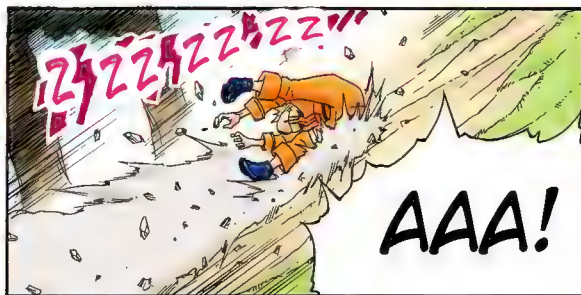
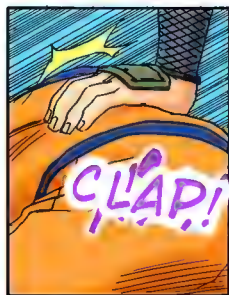
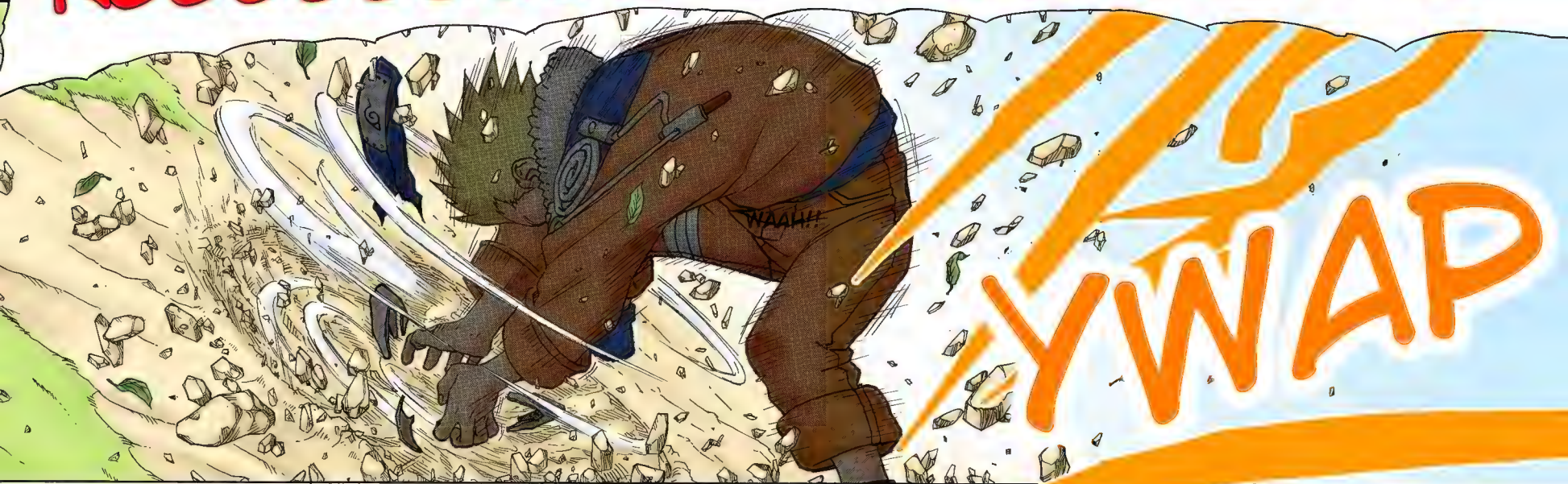


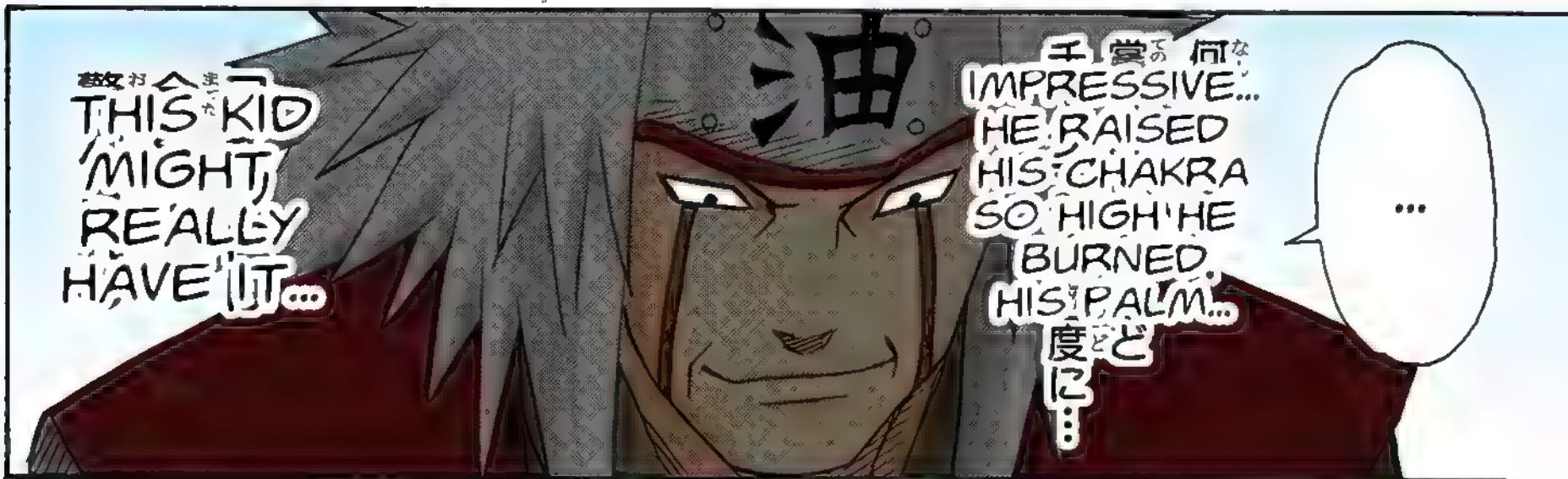
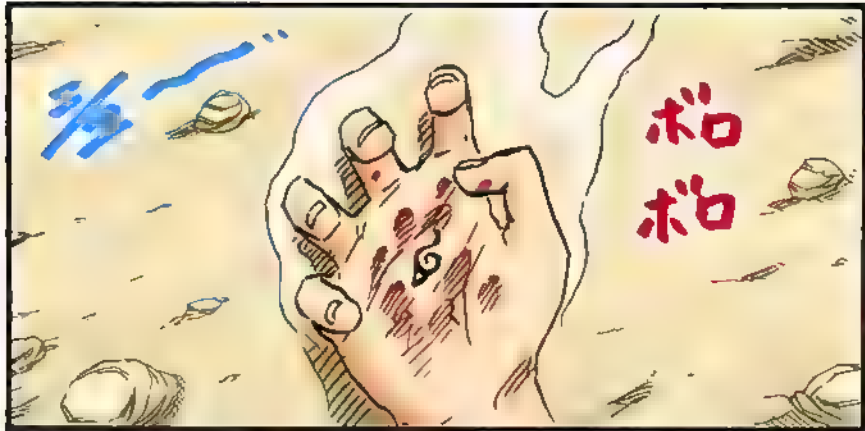
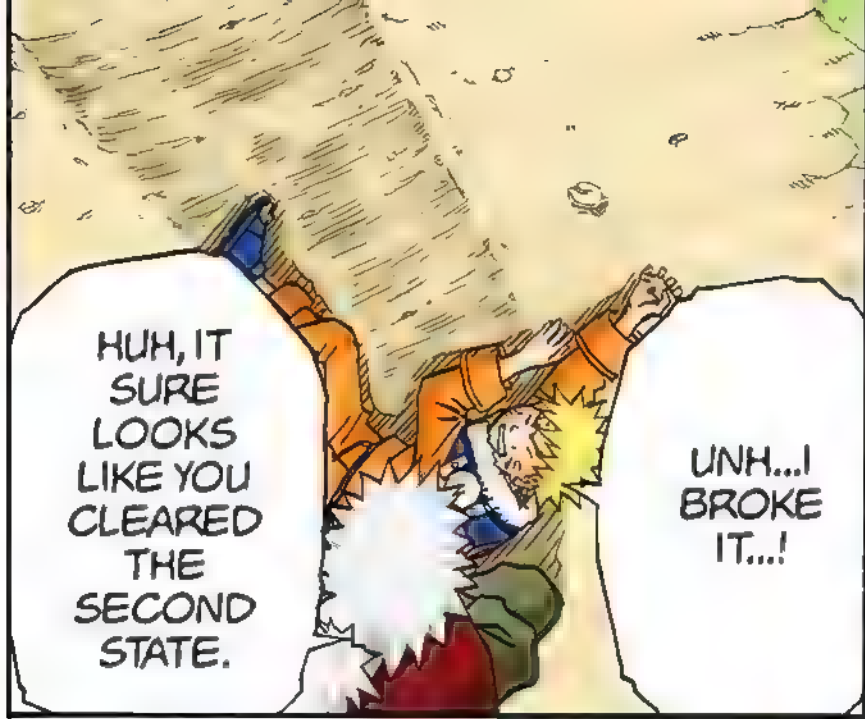


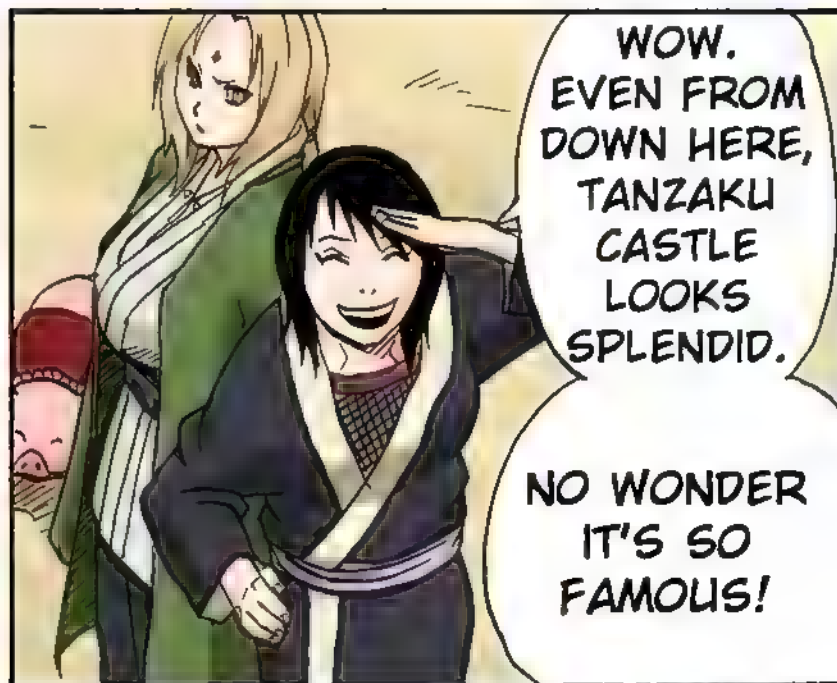


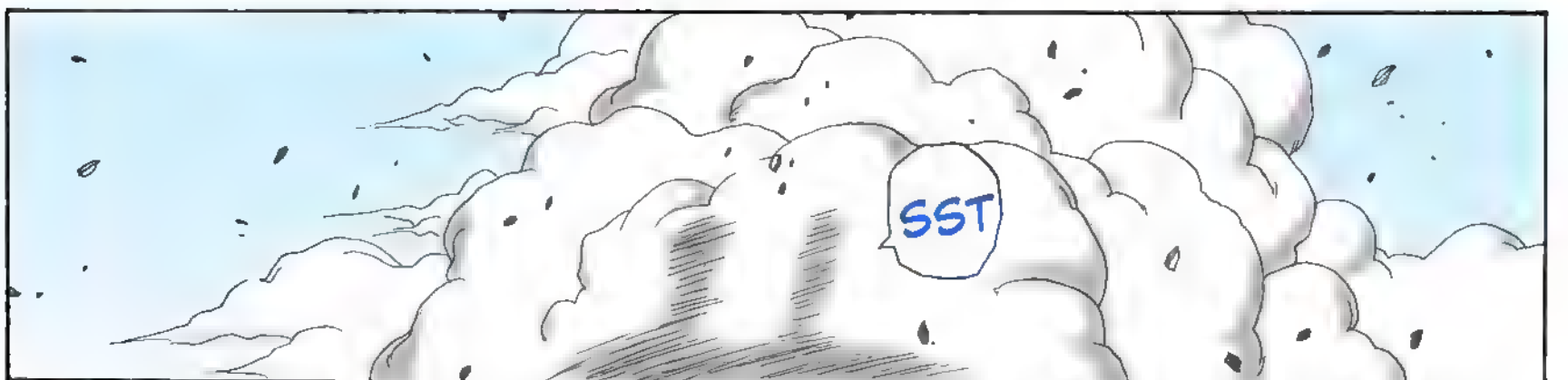
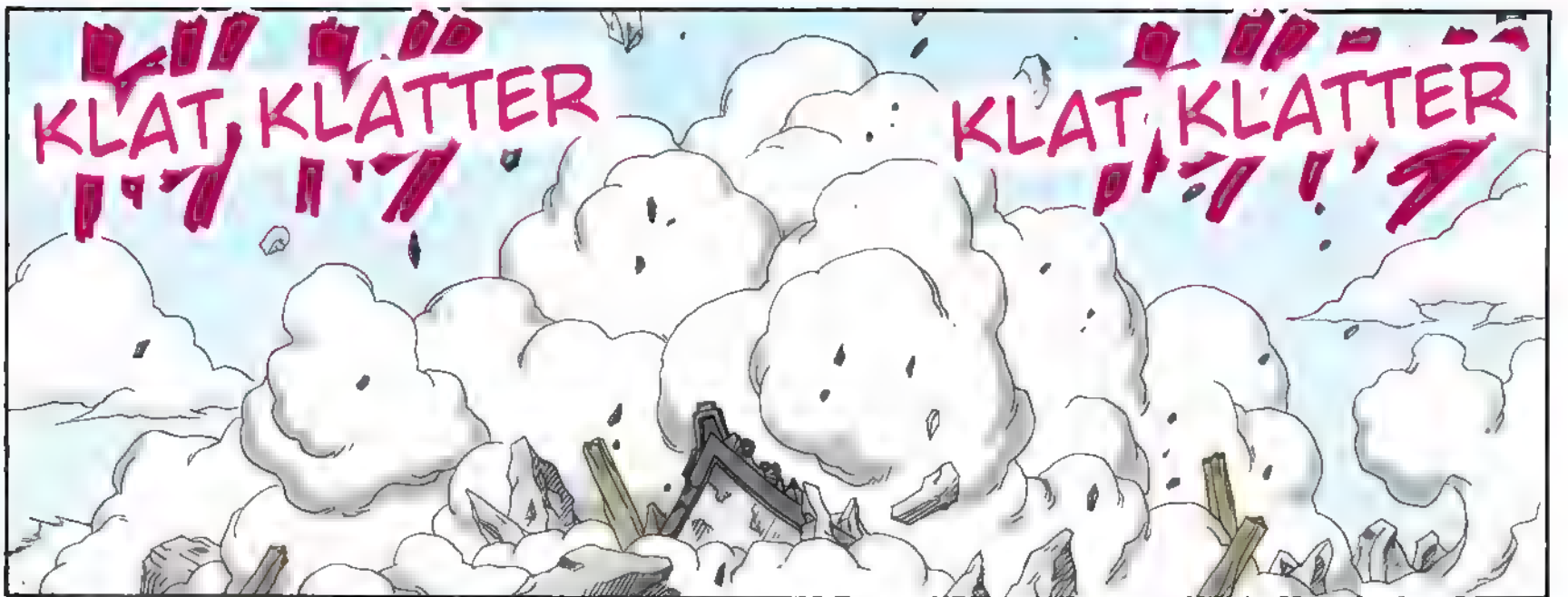
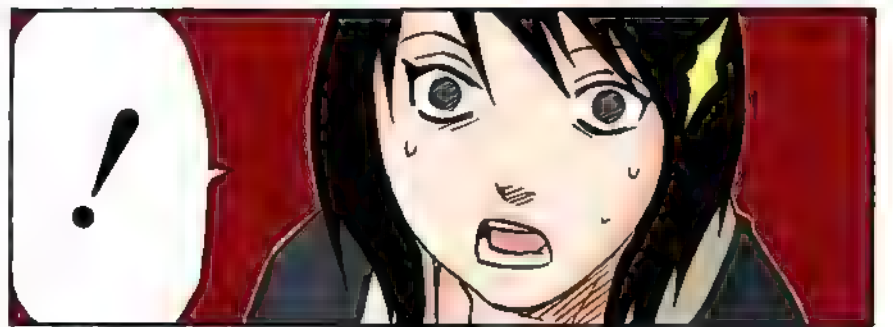
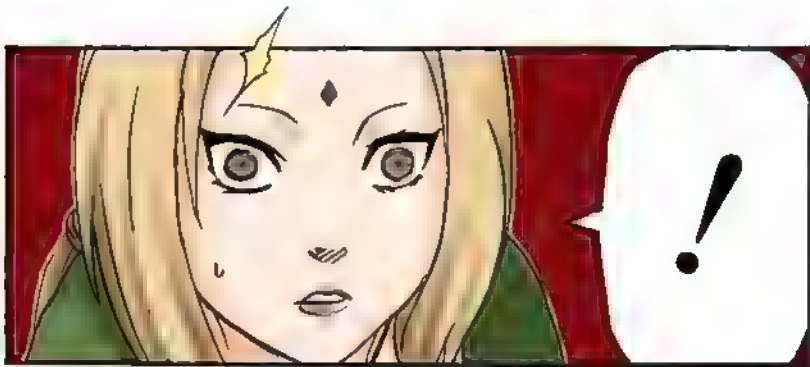
ROOOOOOOOOO

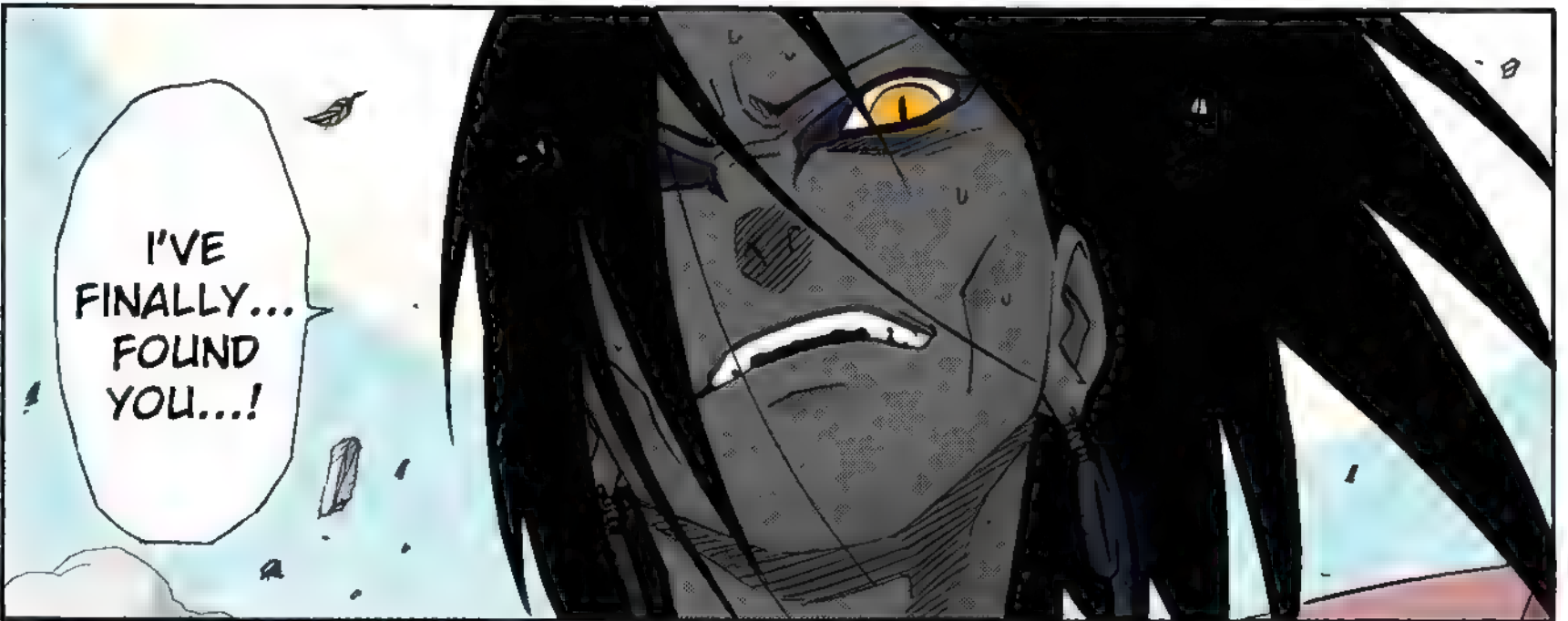
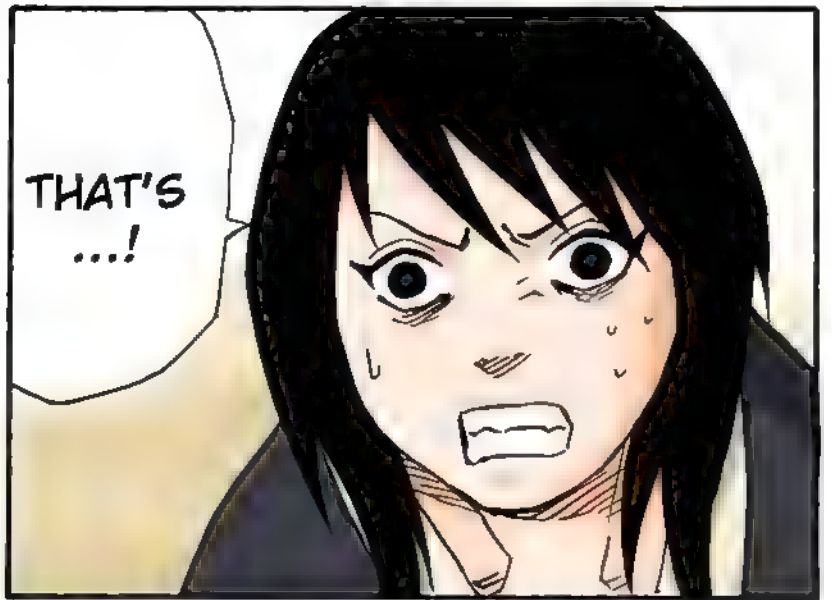
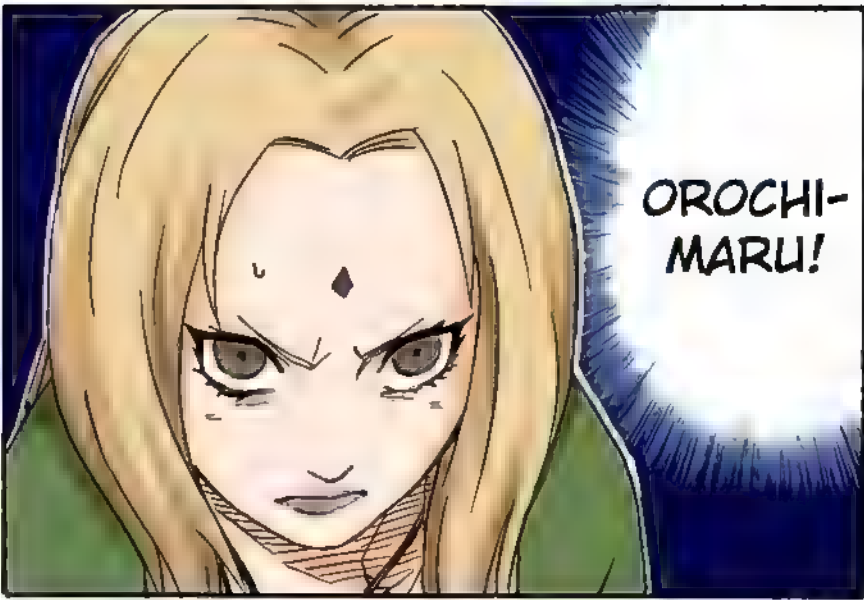
OOOOOOOAR!!











THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 27-A

SO I HAD FINALLY WON *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP'S* NEWCOMER'S AWARD, WHICH HAD BEEN MY DEAREST DESIRE, AND TOOK ONE GIANT LEAP FORWARD TOWARD BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL MANGA ARTIST. I WAS ASSIGNED A PERSONAL EDITOR AND I RECEIVED 200,000 YEN (ABOUT \$2,000) IN PRIZE MONEY, SO I WAS FLOATING ON AIR. FIRST, I DECIDED TO PUT ASIDE AND SAVE THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE PRIZE PURSE. AT THE TIME, I WAS THE PROVERBIAL STARVING STUDENT ARTIST WHO HAD SO LITTLE MONEY THAT I WOULD SQUEEZE OUT AND USE EVERY LAST DROP OF PAINT IN THE TUBE.

IN PARTICULAR, MY FAVORITE COBALT BLUE OIL PAINT... THAT SURE WAS EXPENSIVE! IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, EACH TUBE COST ABOUT 2,000 YEN (ABOUT \$20)...

BECAUSE THE SUPER-FRUGAL ME WOULD MAKE THE COBALT BLUE GO FURTHER BY THINNING IT WITH ADDITIONAL OIL, THERE STARTED TO BE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN COLOR DENSITY BETWEEN MY PAINTINGS AND THOSE OF MY BOURGEOIS CLASSMATES WHO JUST SLATHERED IT ON. IT GOT TO A POINT WHERE MY ART INSTRUCTOR WOULD REGULARLY SCOLD ME, "TOO LIGHT!" OR "YOU NEED TO GIVE IT A HEAVIER, MORE OPPRESSIVE FEELING, YATTA YATTA." ON TOP OF IT ALL, HE'D SAY, "ARE YOU SLACKING?" OR "YOU OUGHT TO TAKE MORE TIME WITH IT, AND USE MANY MORE COLORS. YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH COLORS!" THAT INSTRUCTOR DEFINITELY DIDN'T TAKE HIS STUDENTS' WALLET CONTENTS INTO CONSIDERATION...

I WANTED TO SHOUT BACK, I CAN'T HELP IT IF I CAN'T AFFORD MORE PAINT TUBES! BUT ACTUALLY, AT THAT POINT I DIDN'T REALLY CARE ANYMORE...THAT'S BECAUSE THE CONSTANTLY MONEY-GOBBLING OIL PAINTING BUSINESS HAD LOST ITS APPEAL, AND I WAS ALSO TIRED OF THE WHINING, HIGH-NOSED ART WORLD. I'D RATHER SPEND WHAT PRECIOUS MONEY I HAD ON THE MOVIES, WHICH MIGHT HELP ME DRAW MANGA... AND THUS, I DECIDED TO SPEND ALL MY MONEY ON MOVIES AND VIDEOS.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

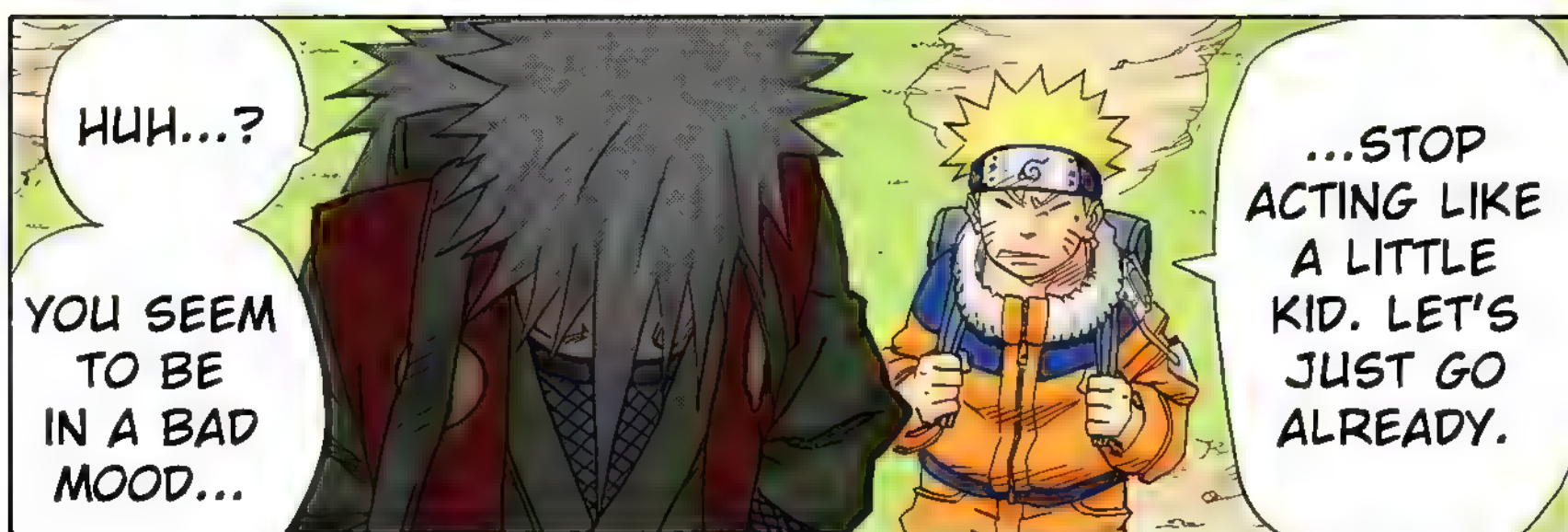
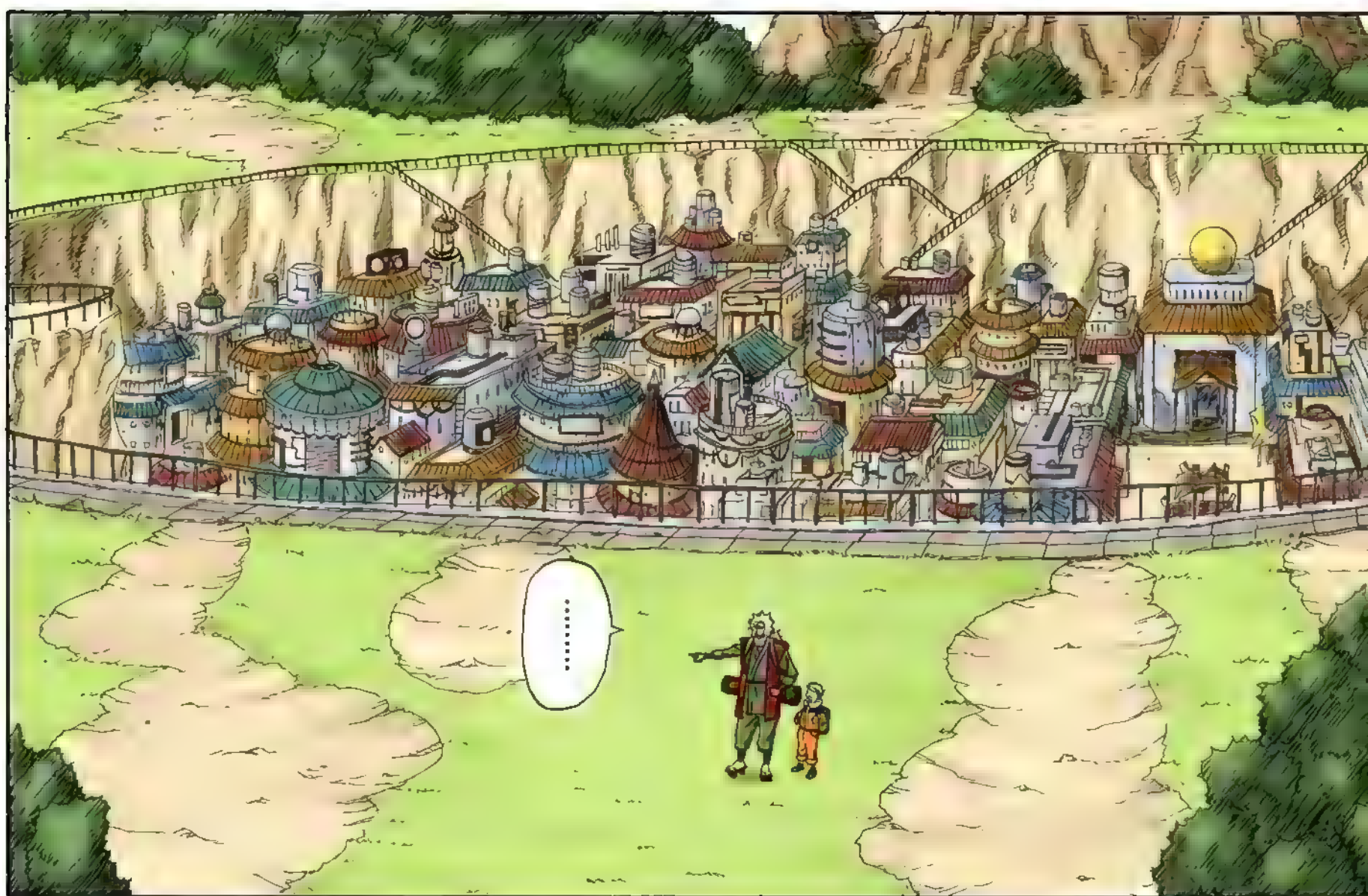
ナンバー

155 : THE THIRD STEP





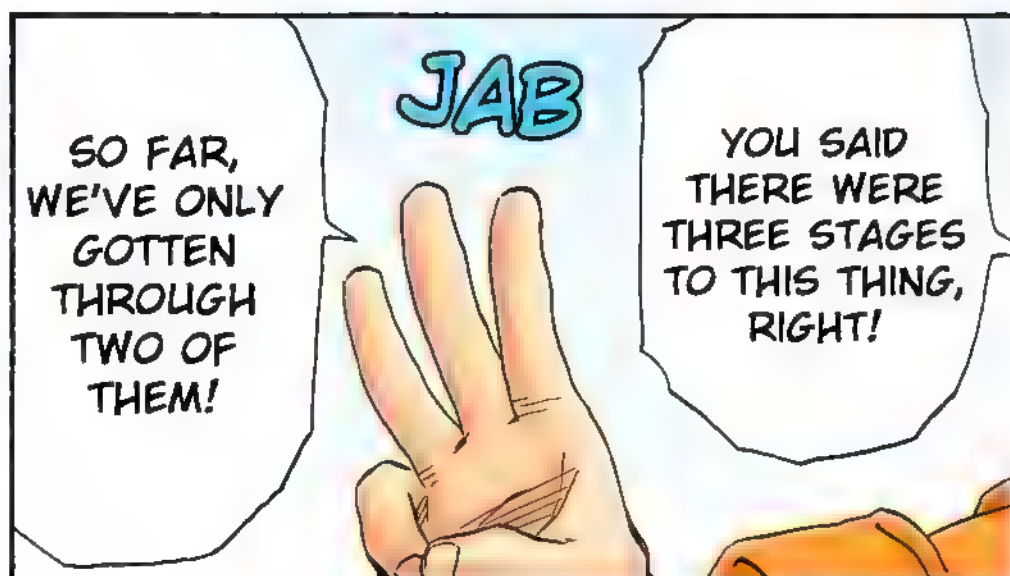
**ALRIGHT,
LET'S
GO!**



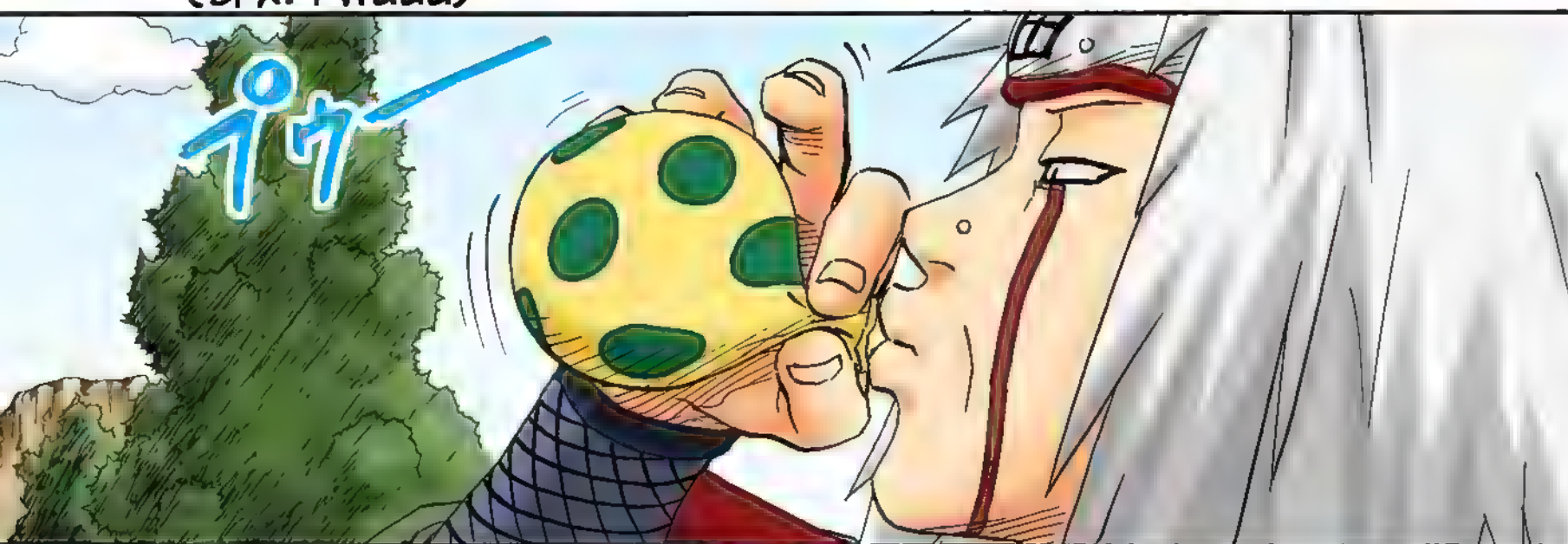
HUH...?

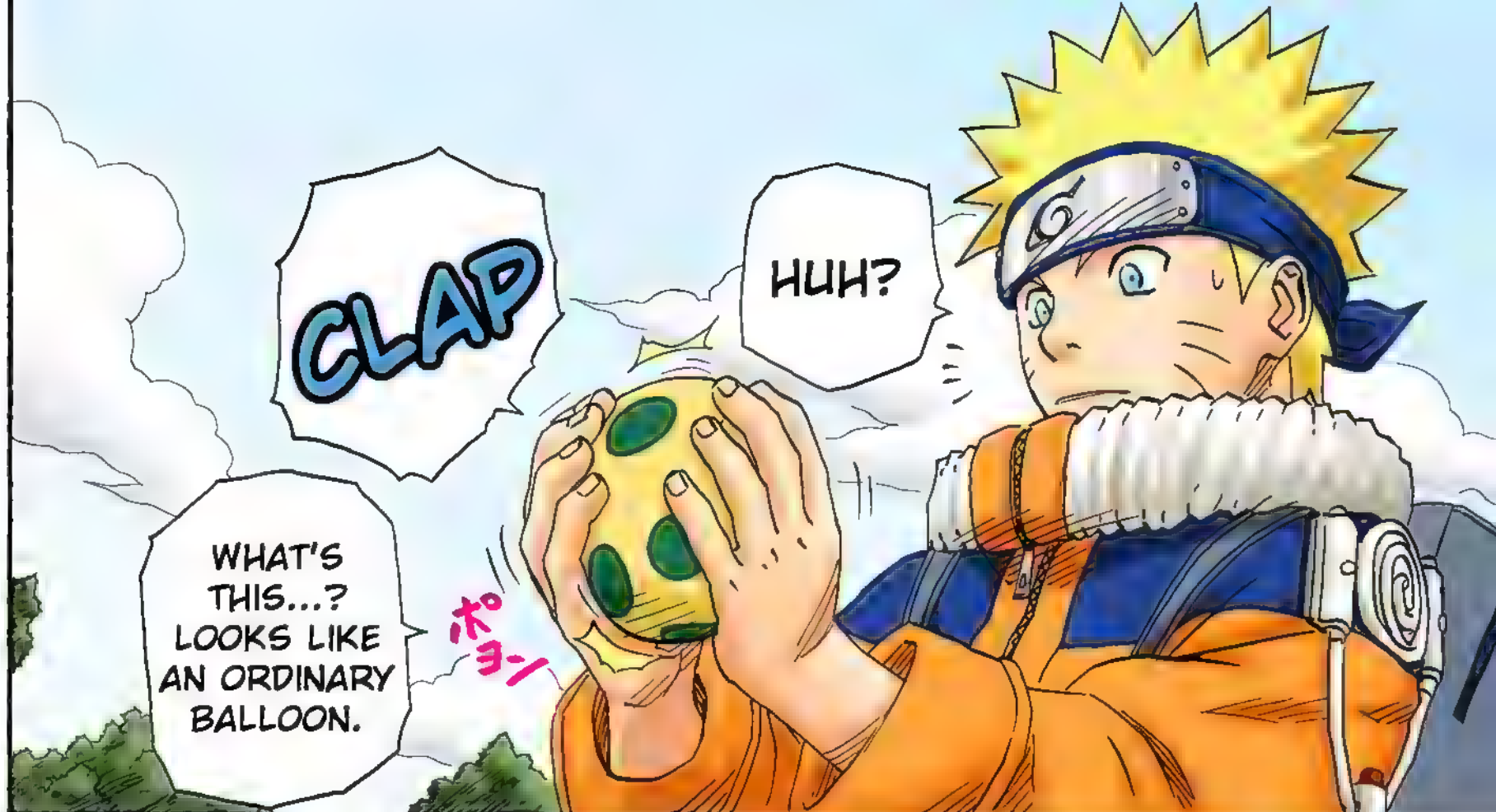
YOU SEEM
TO BE
IN A BAD
MOOD...

...STOP
ACTING LIKE
A LITTLE
KID. LET'S
JUST GO
ALREADY.

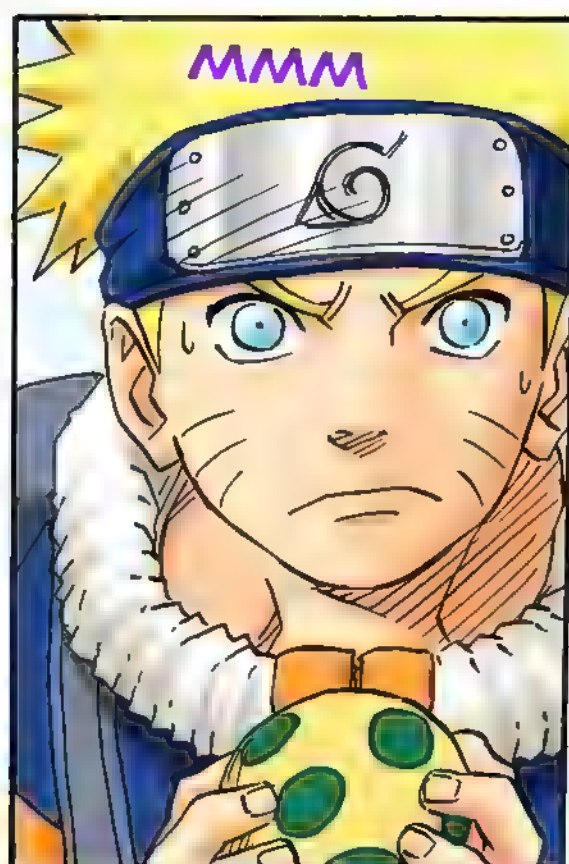
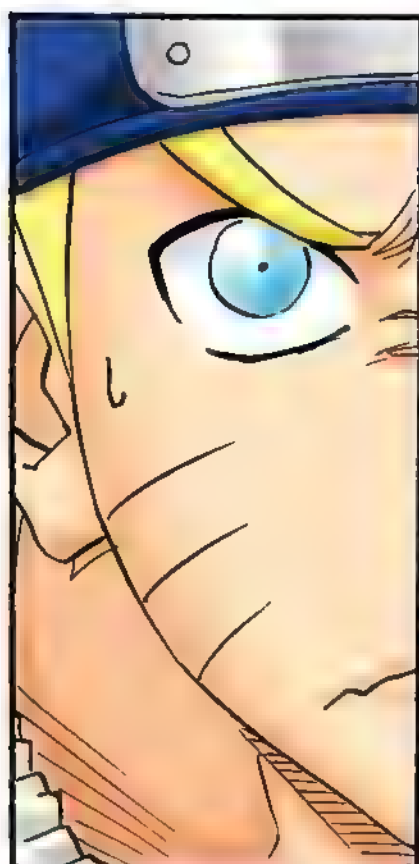
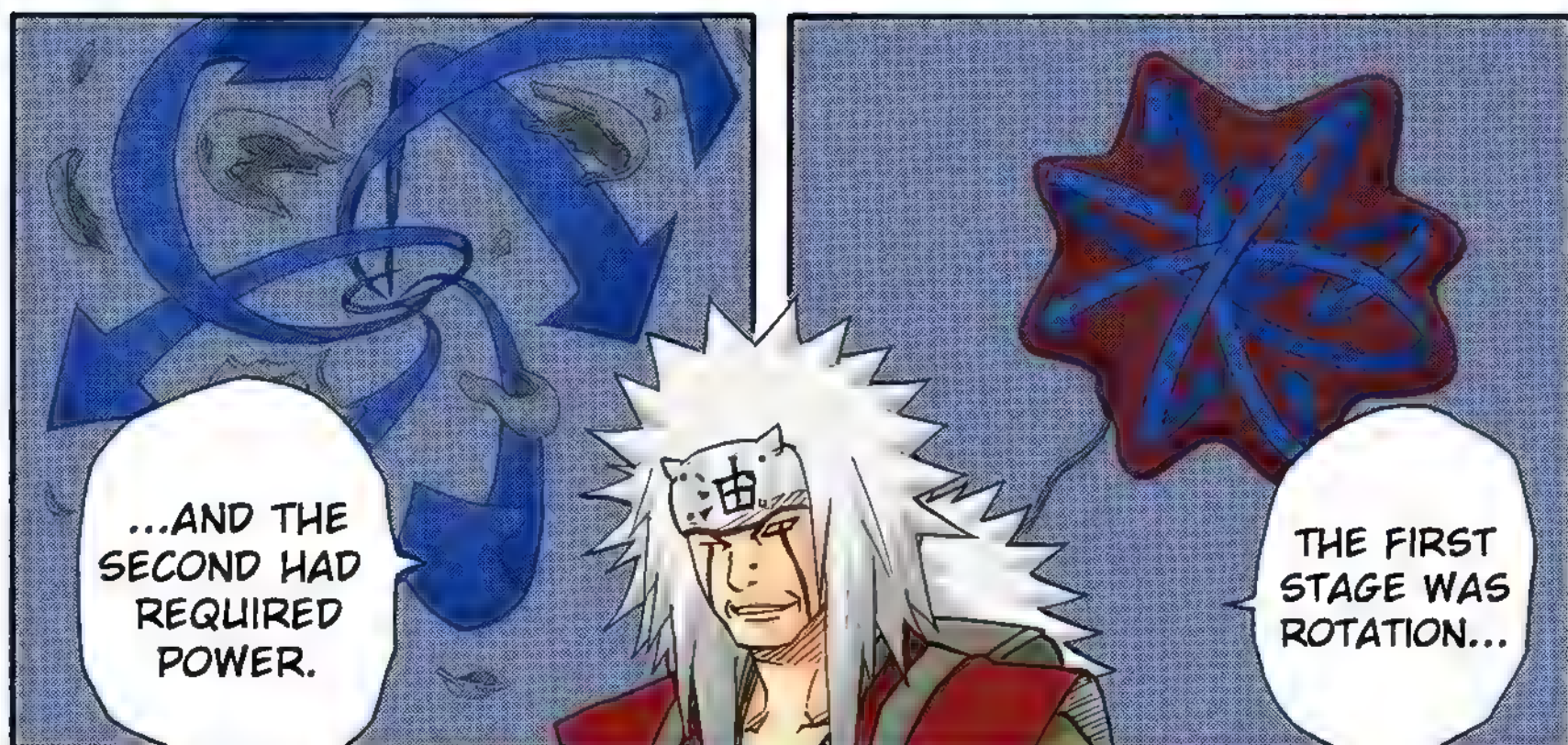


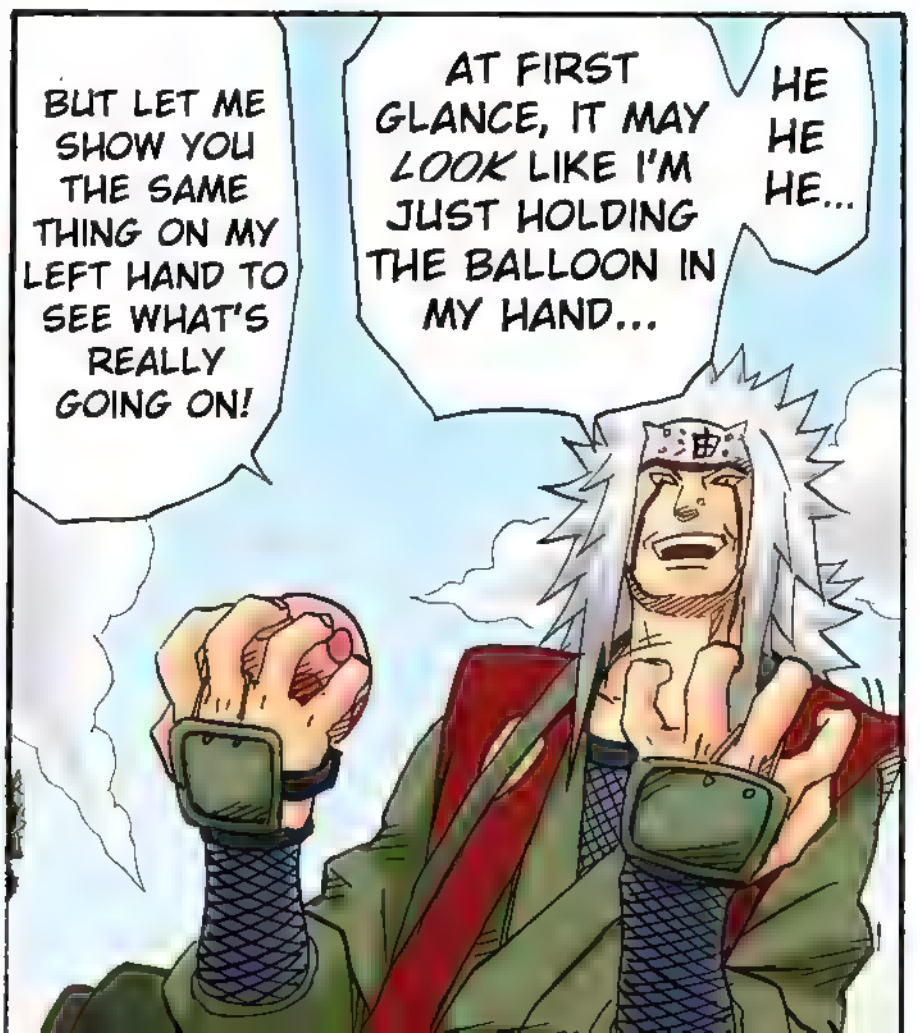
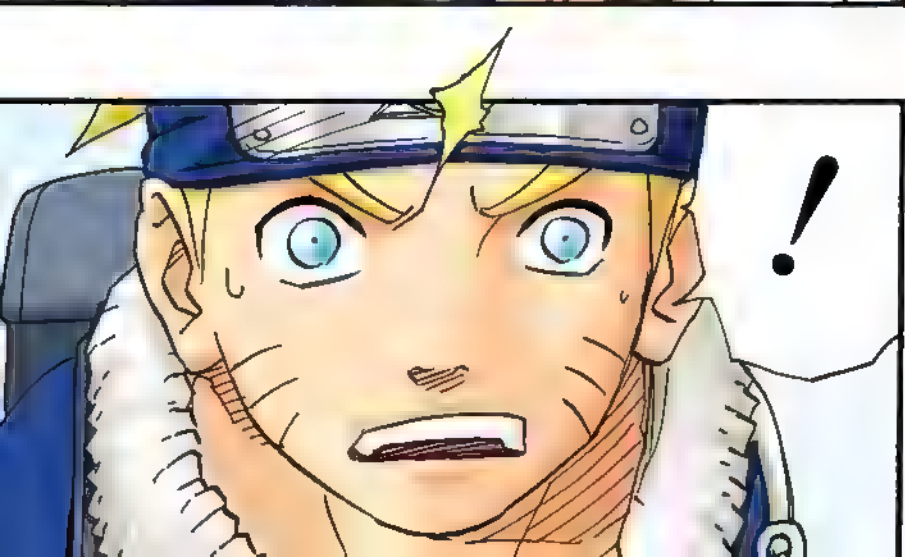
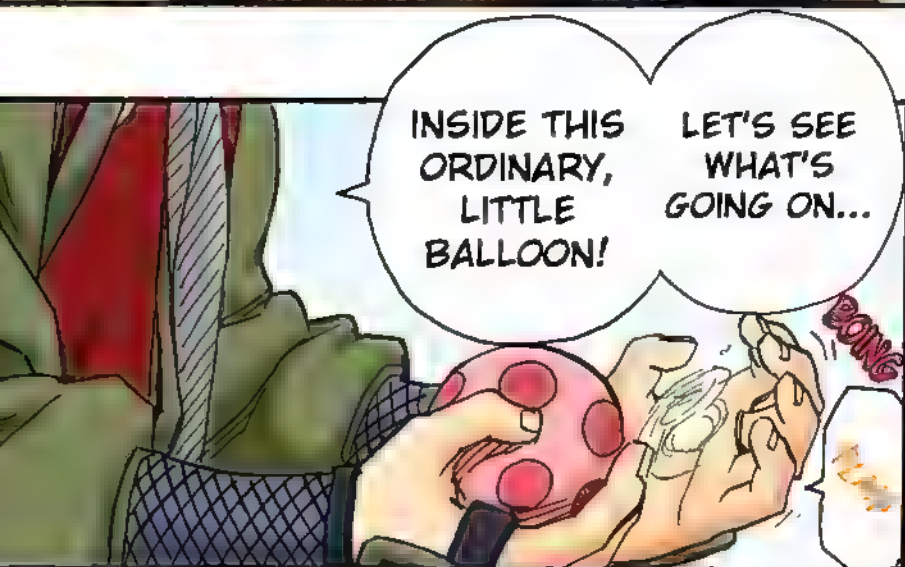
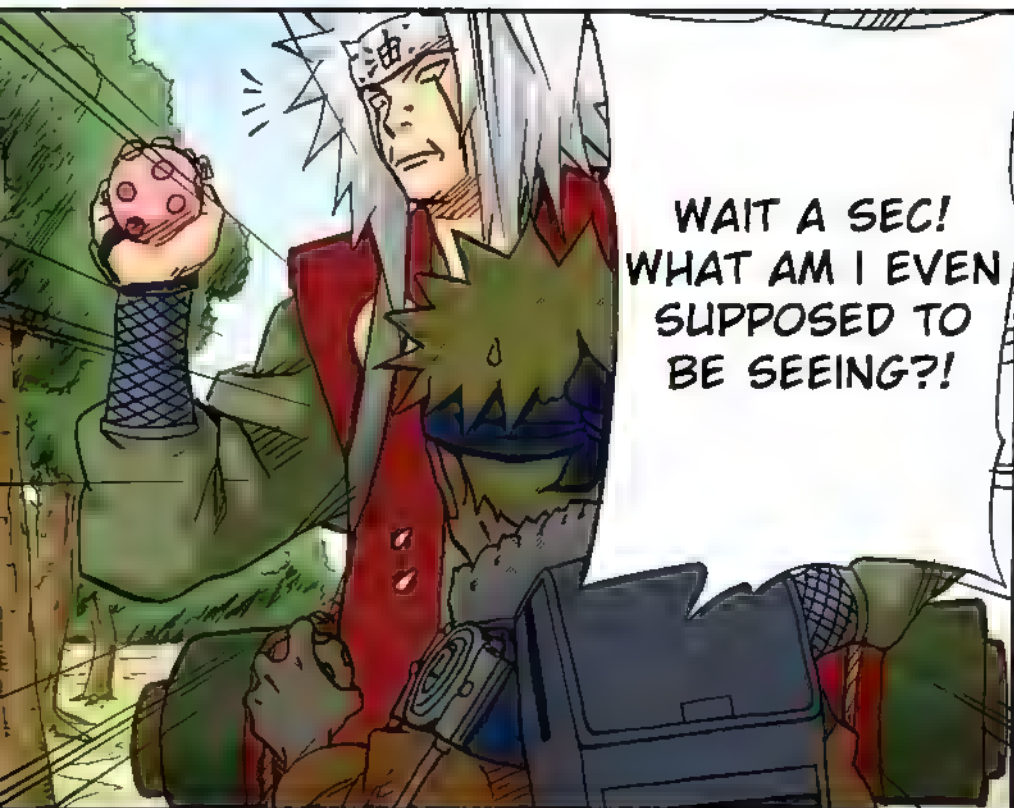
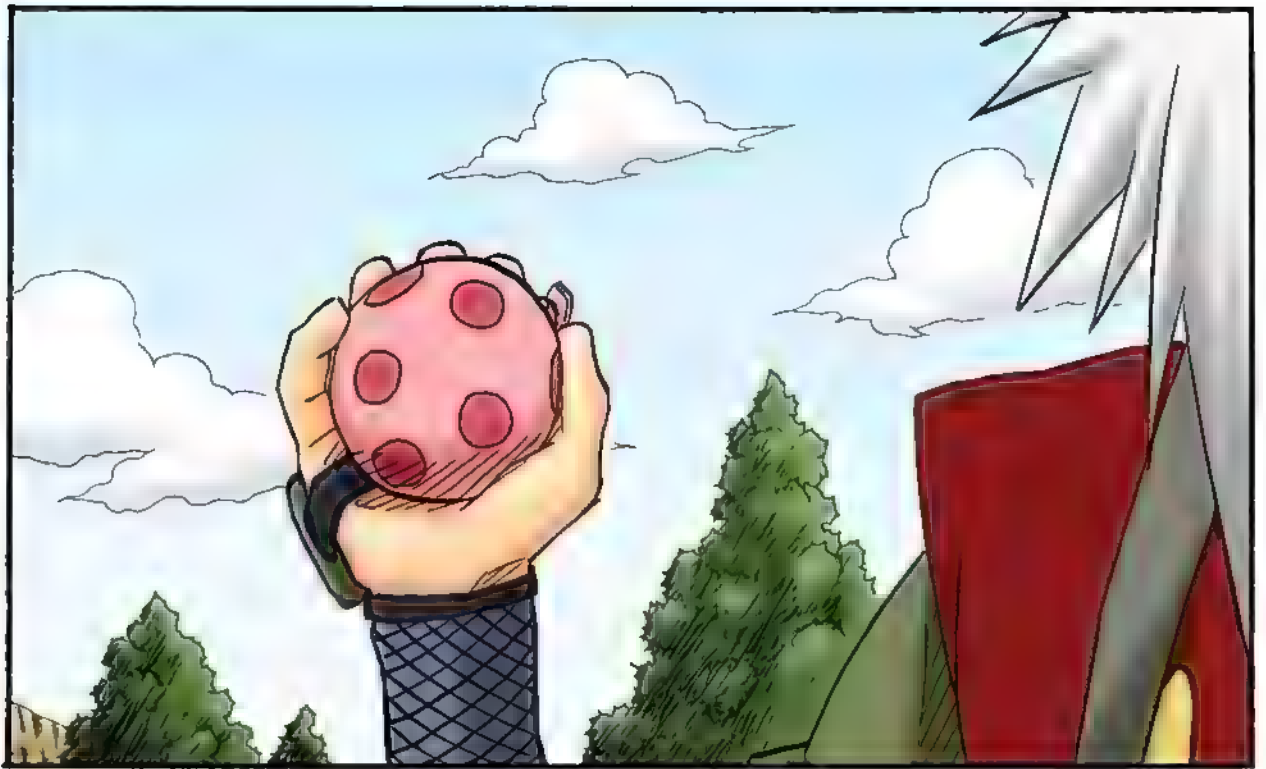
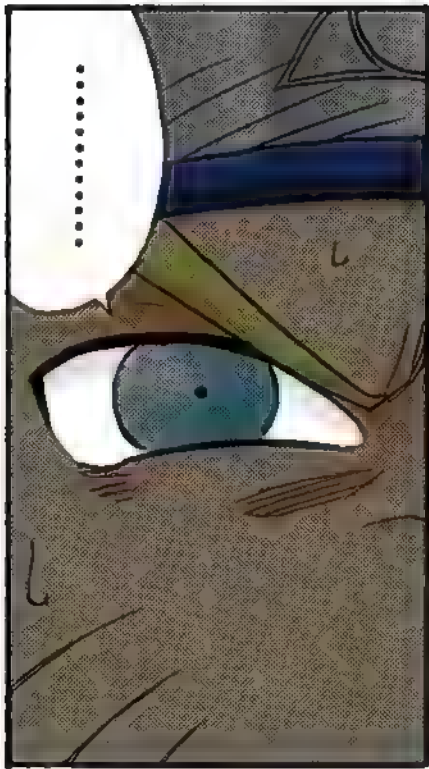
(SFX: PWULLU)

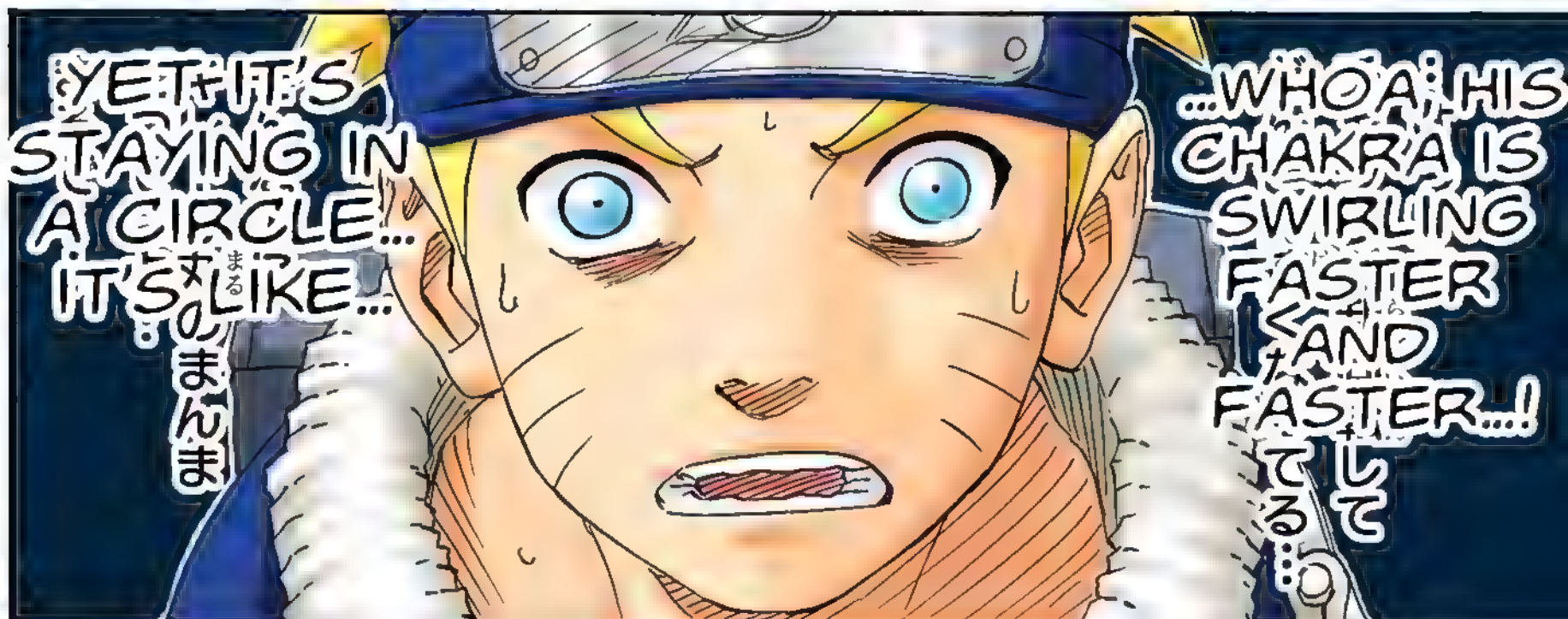




(SFX: BOINN)





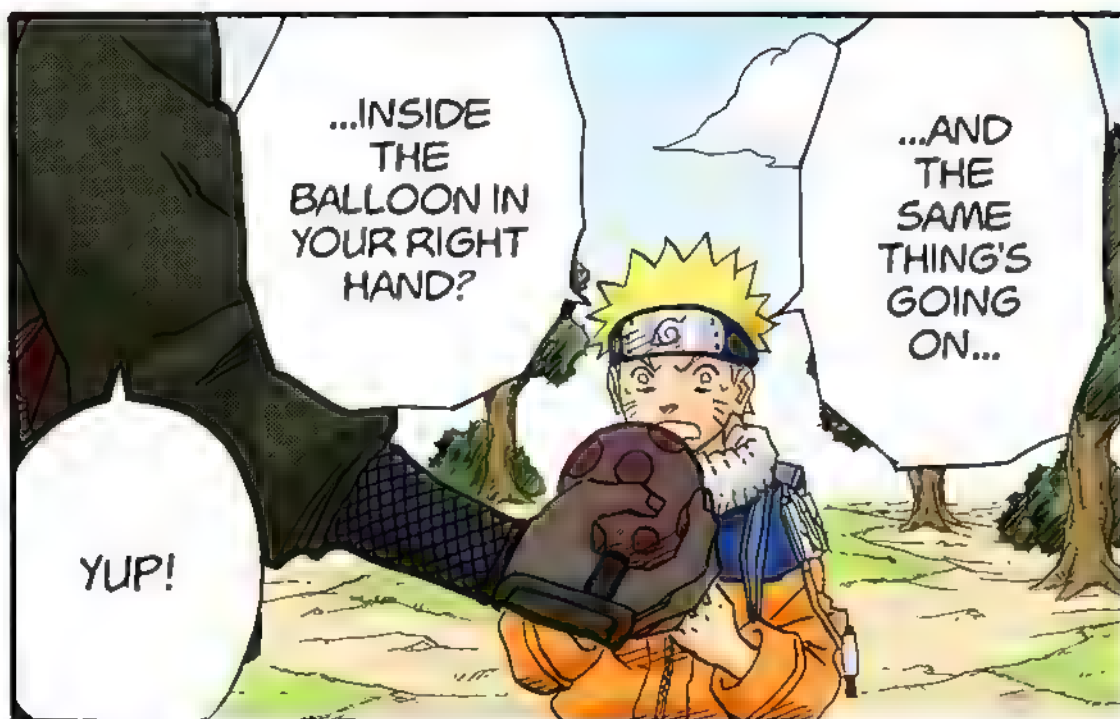




...A MINI-CYCLONE!



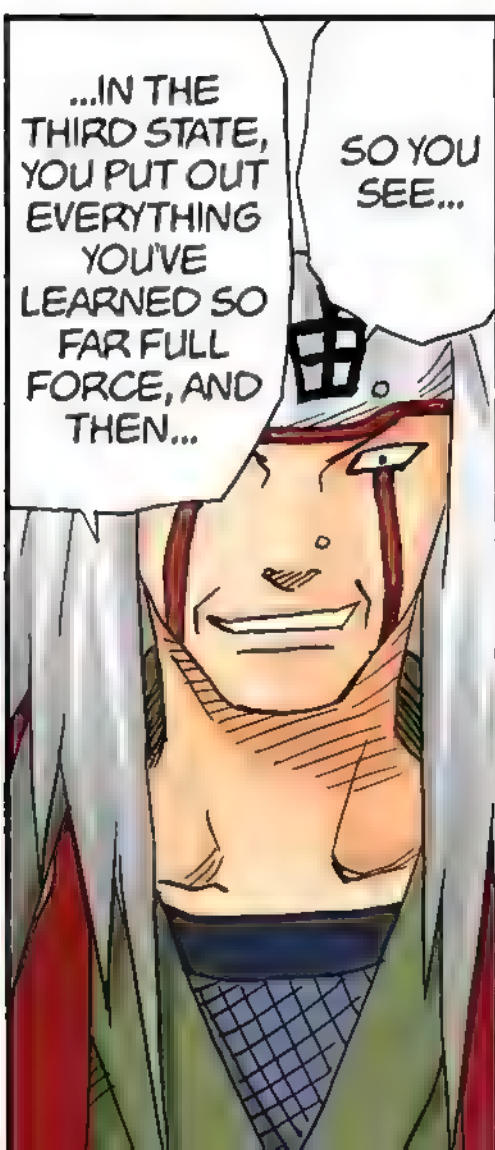
WOW...



...INSIDE THE BALLOON IN YOUR RIGHT HAND?

...AND THE SAME THING'S GOING ON...

YUP!



...IN THE THIRD STATE, YOU PUT OUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR FULL FORCE, AND THEN...

SO YOU SEE...

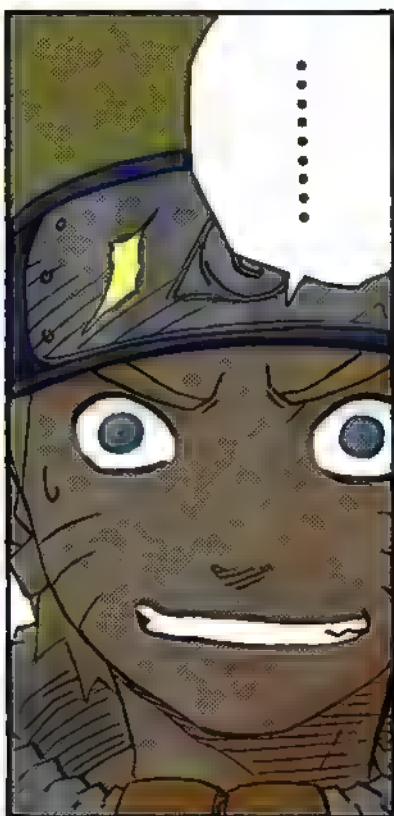


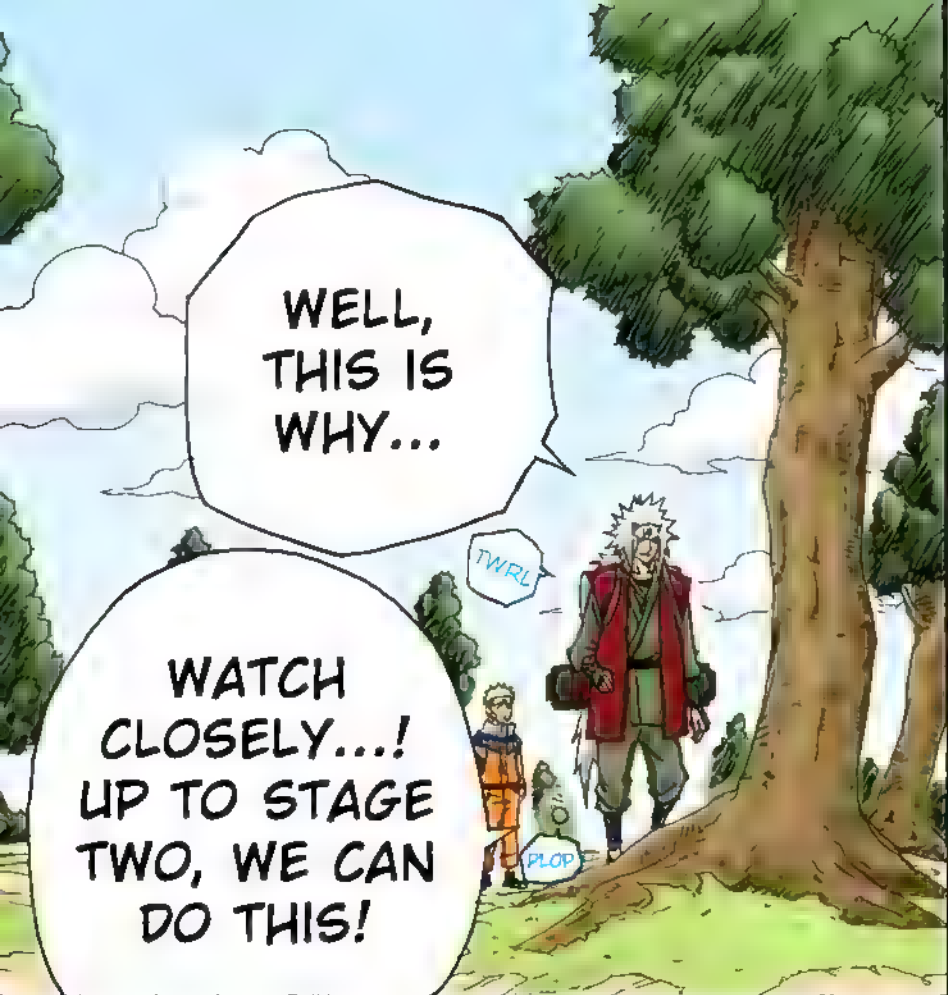
...EVEN THOUGH THE CHAKRA'S MORE POWERFUL AND ROTATING FASTER THAN WHEN HE BURST THE RUBBER BALL!

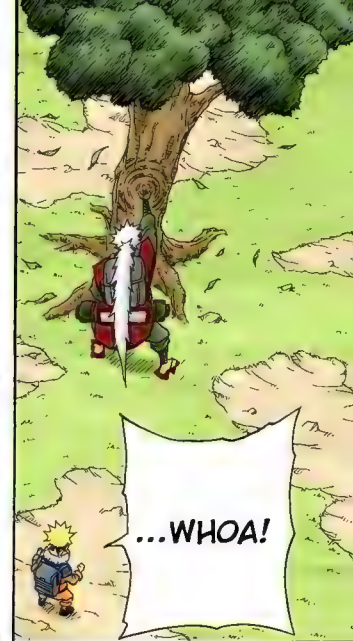
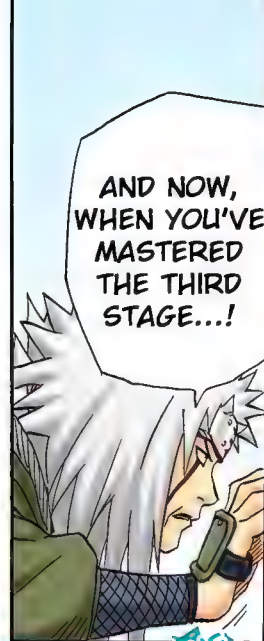
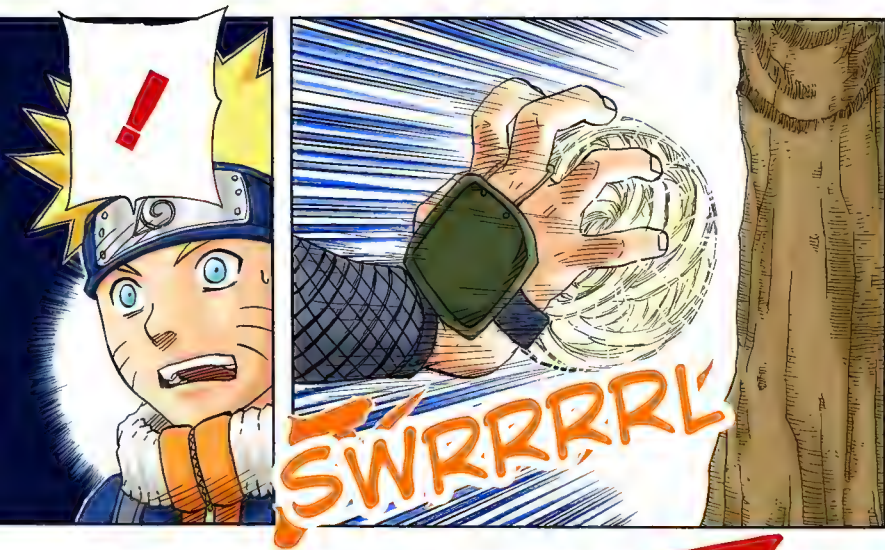
HE'S TURNING SO MUCH CHAKRA, BUT THE BALLOON DOESN'T EVEN MOVE...

に時より

量のにも

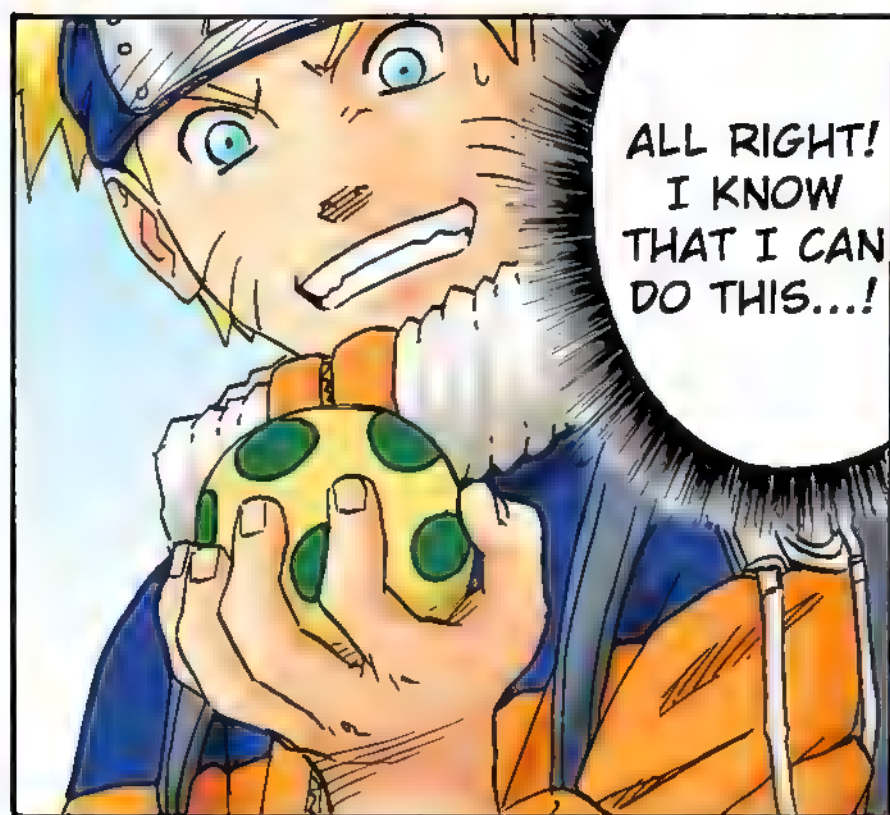
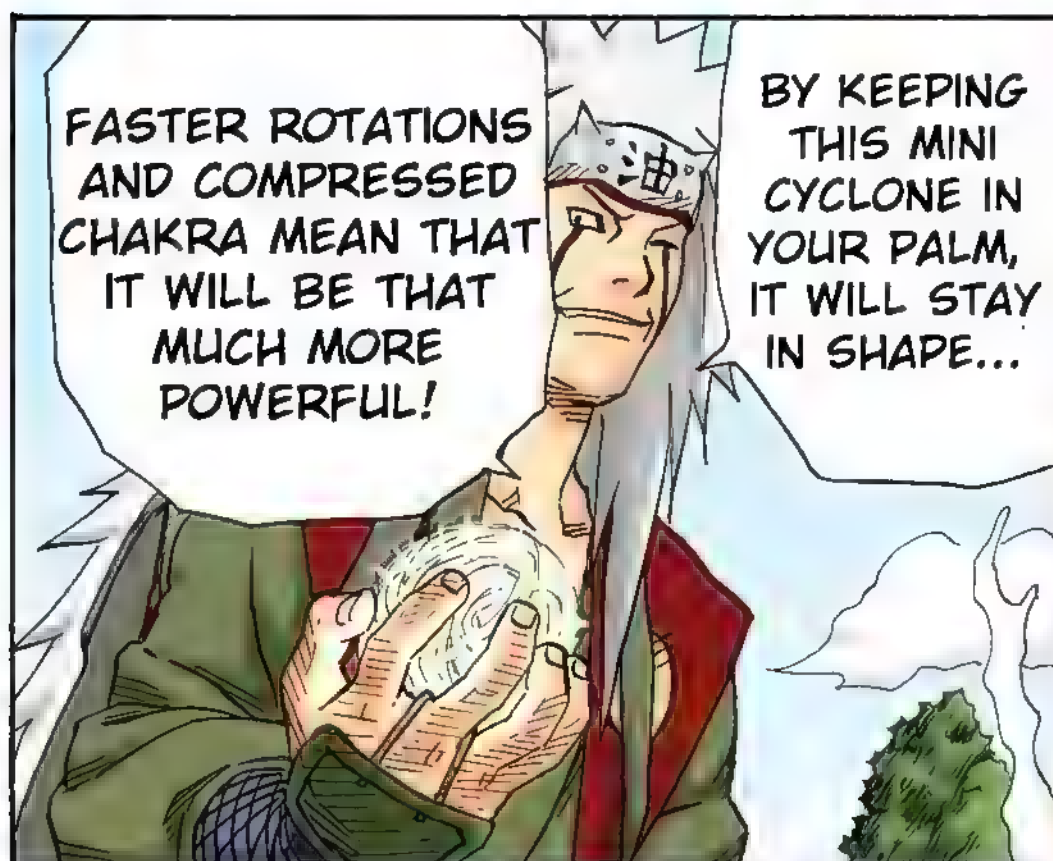


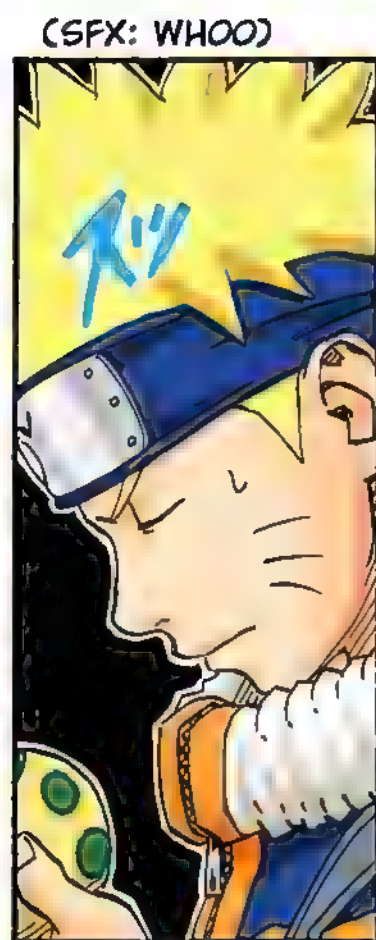
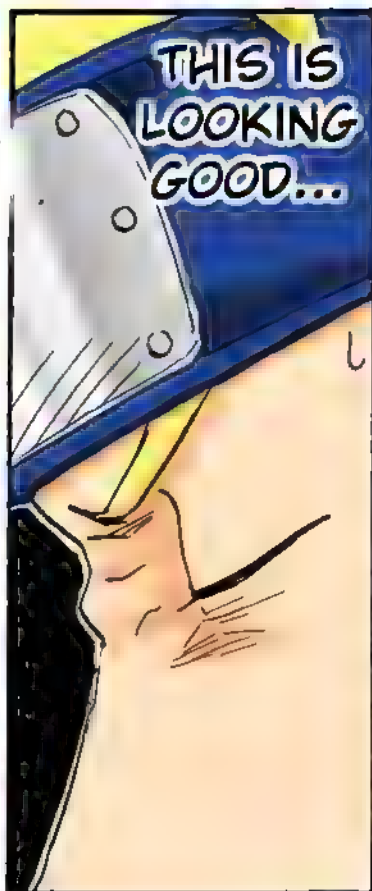




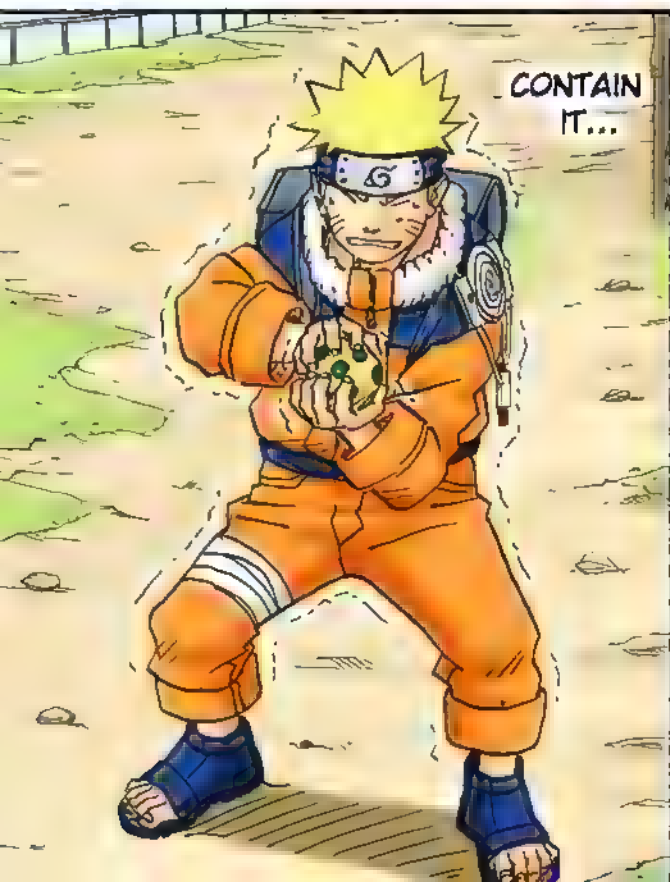


(SFX: PSSST)



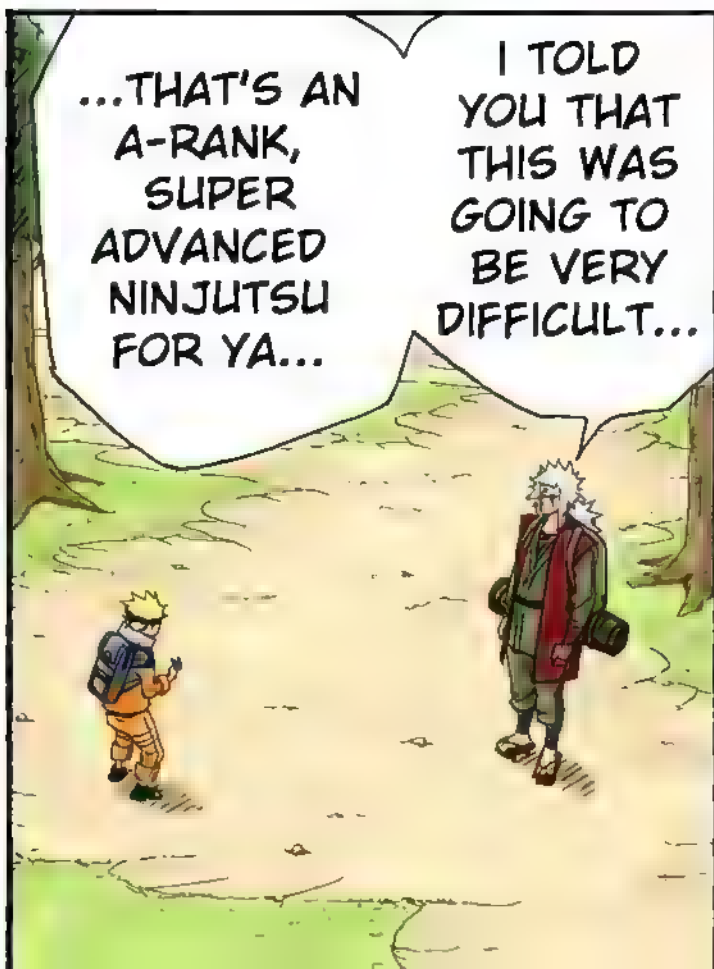
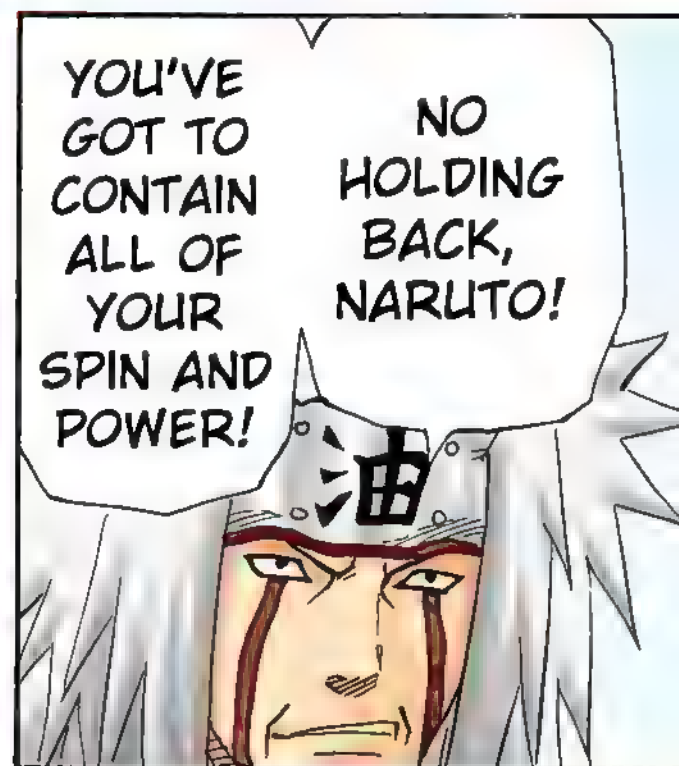


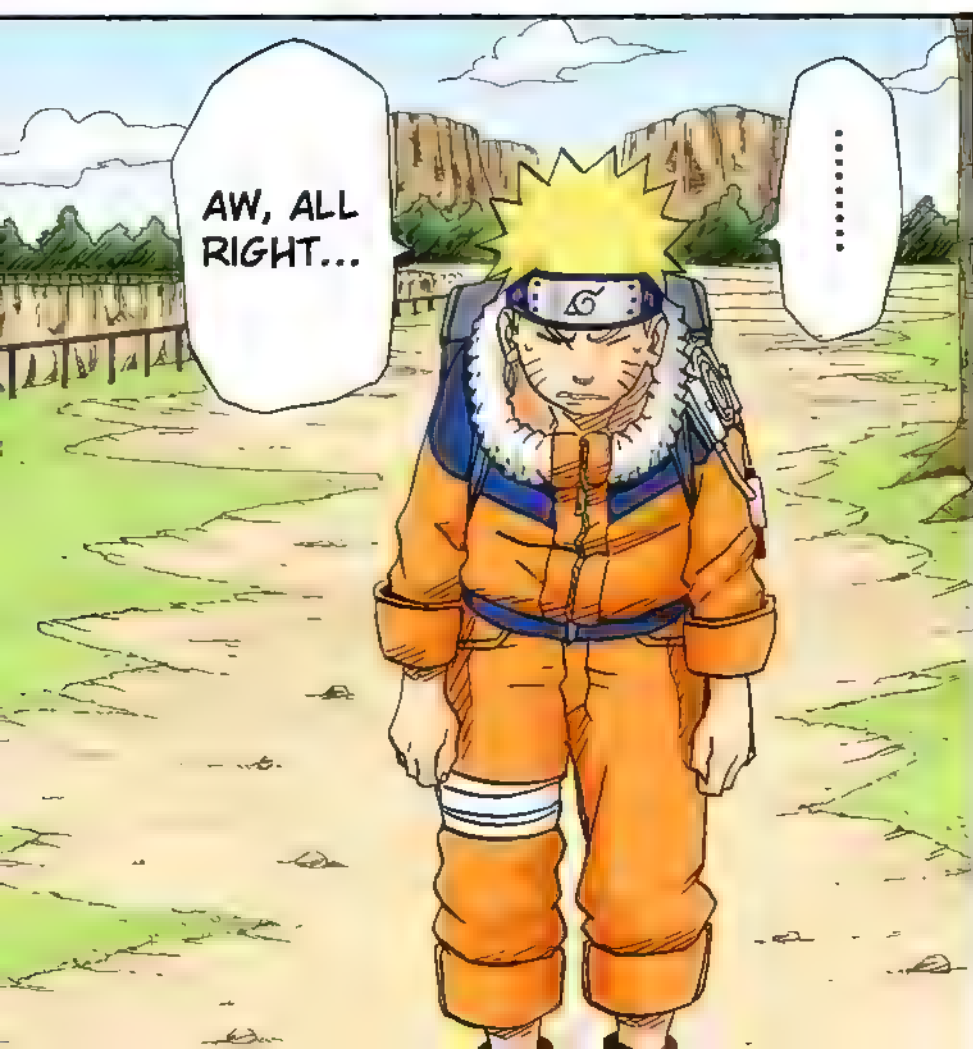
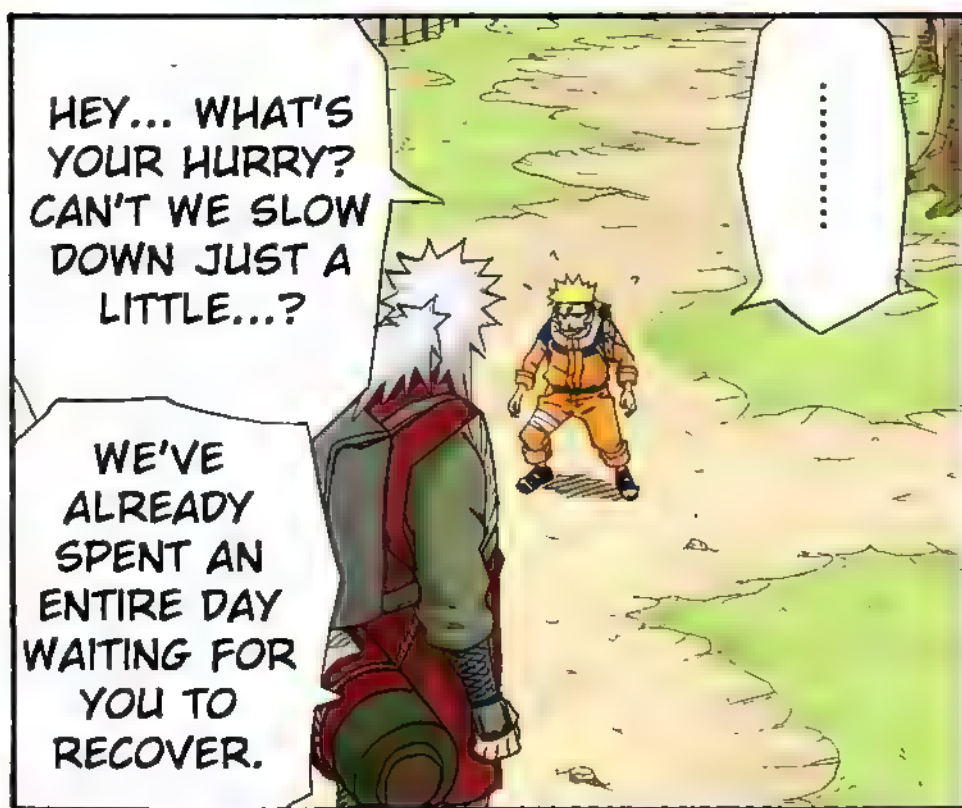
(SFX: WHOO)

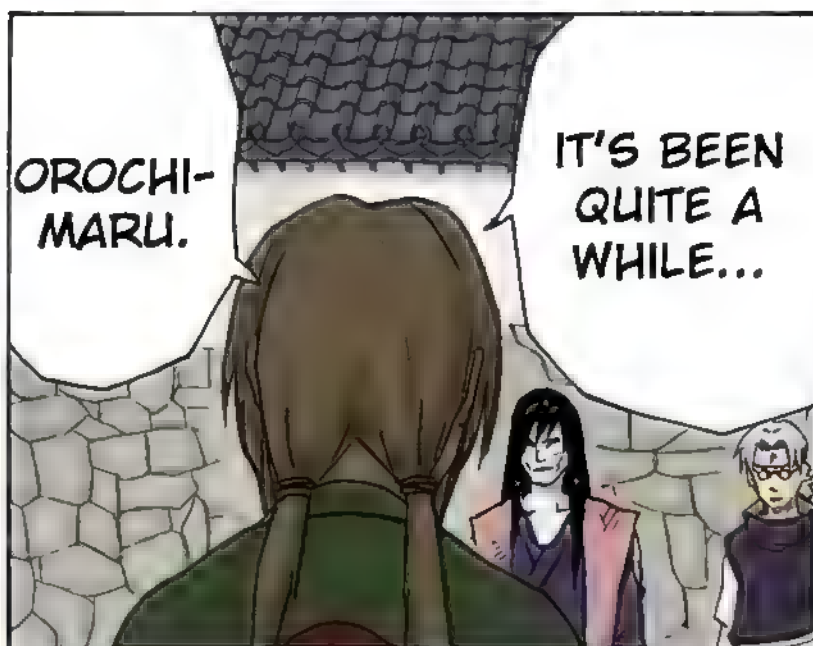
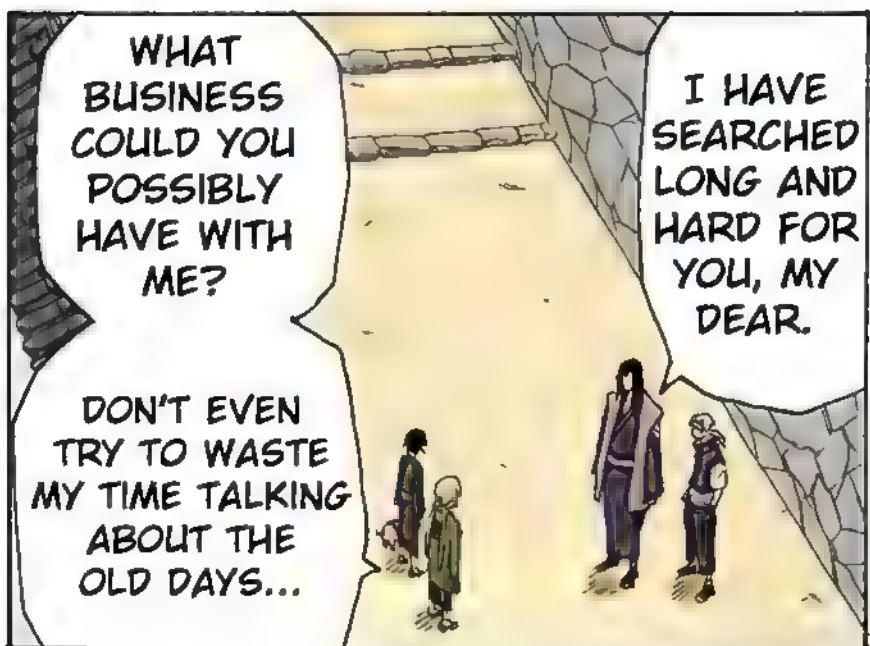
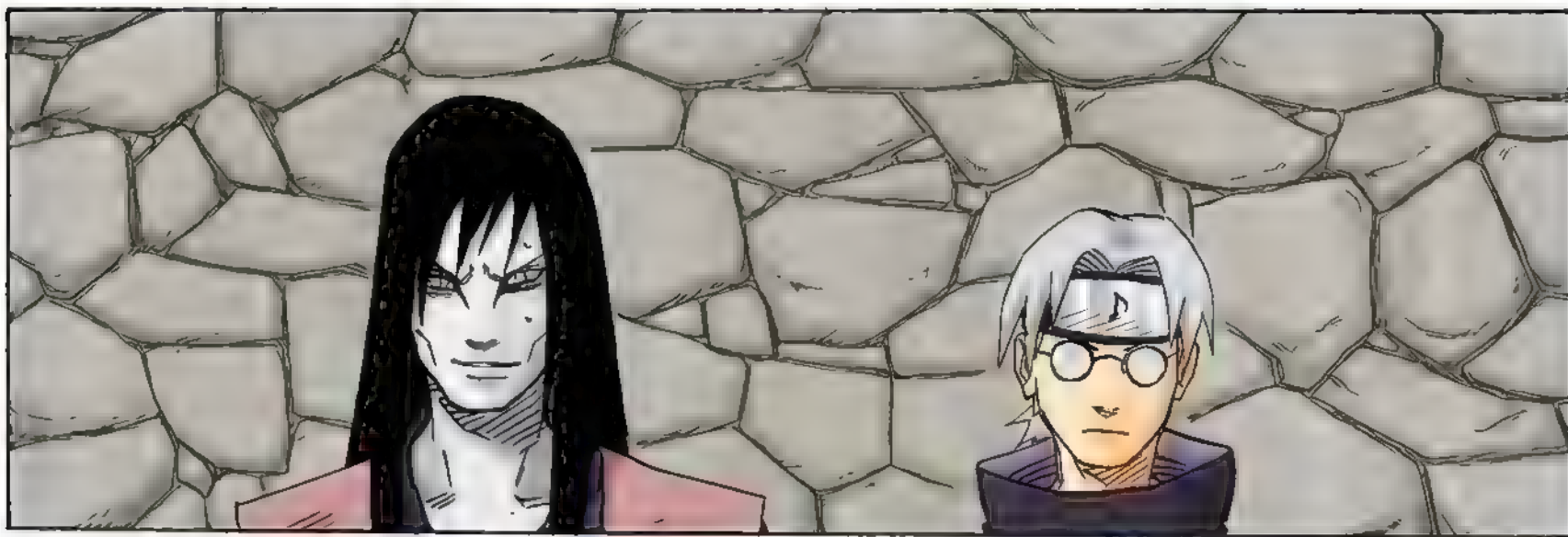
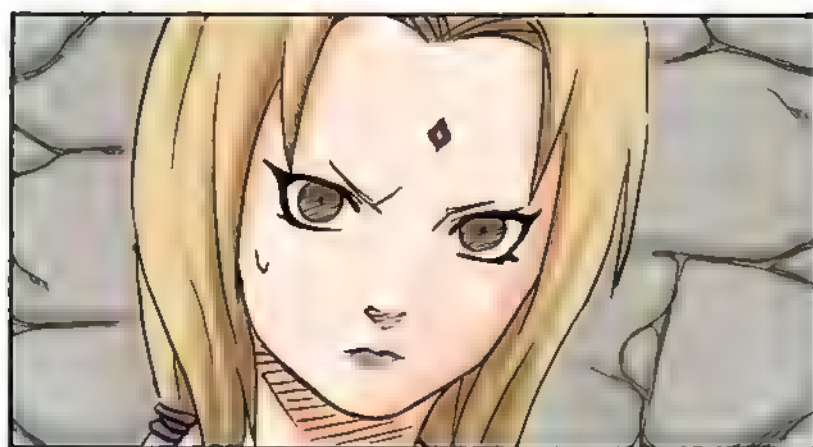
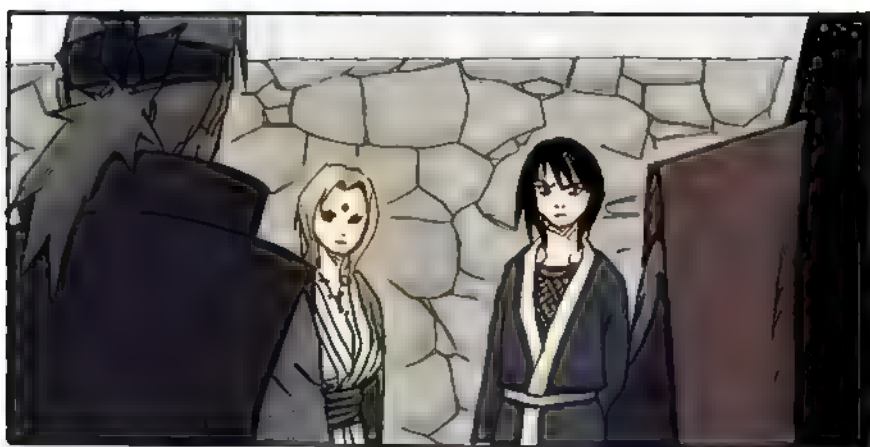
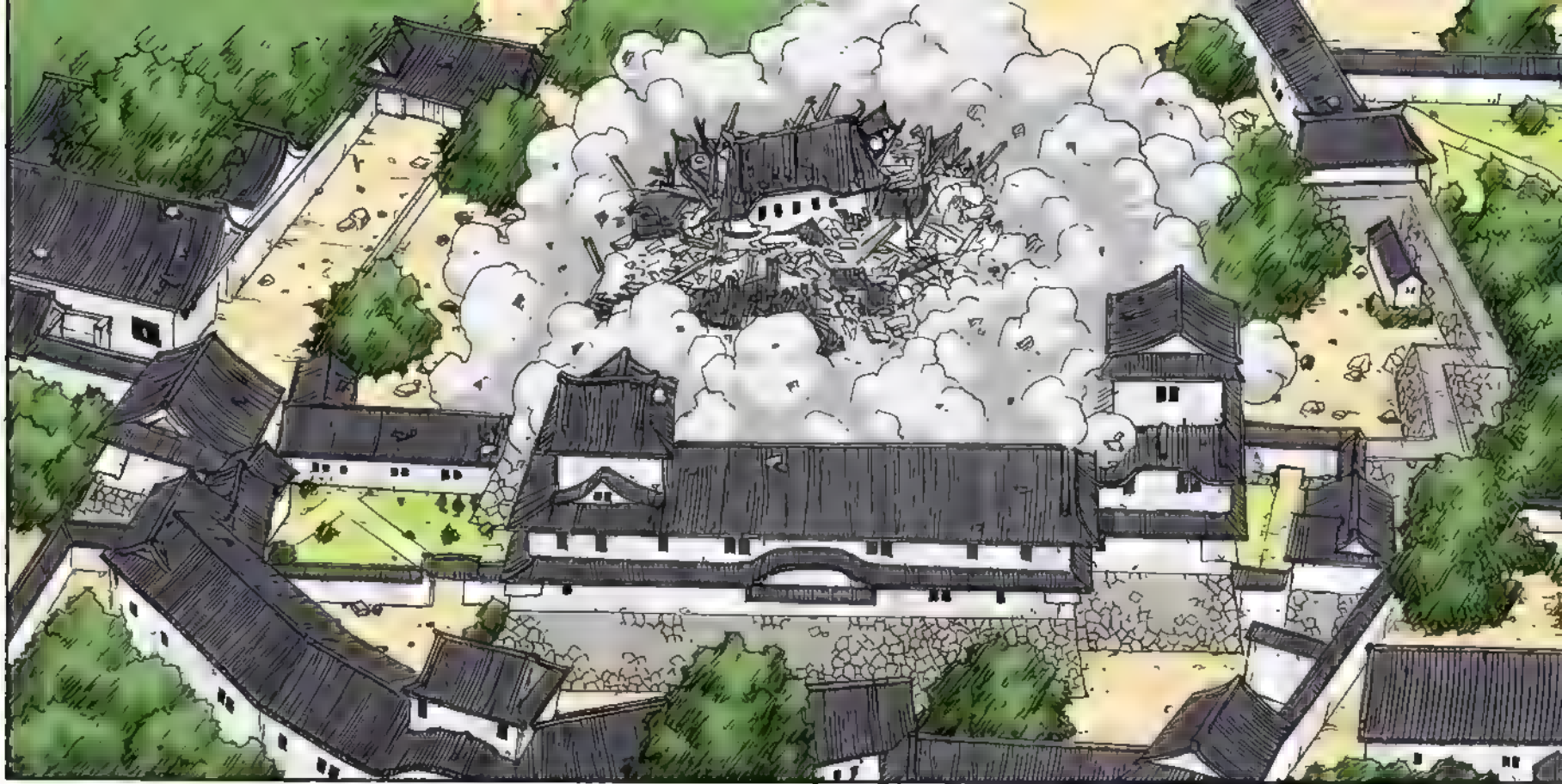


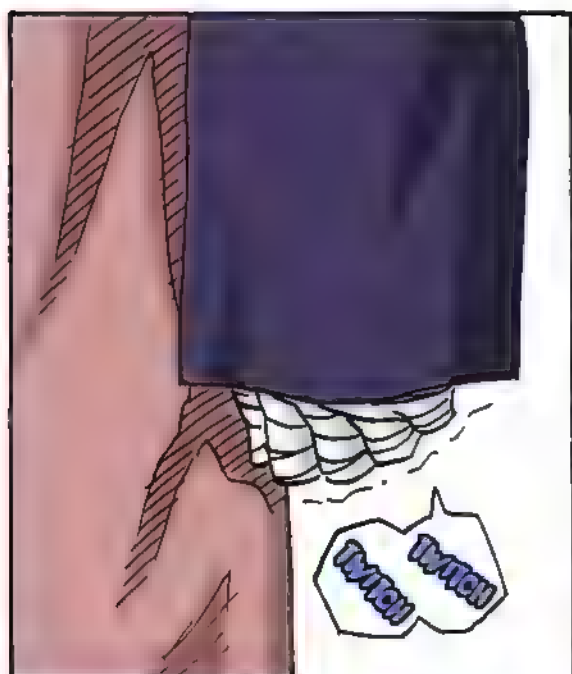
(SFX: TWITCH TWITCH)



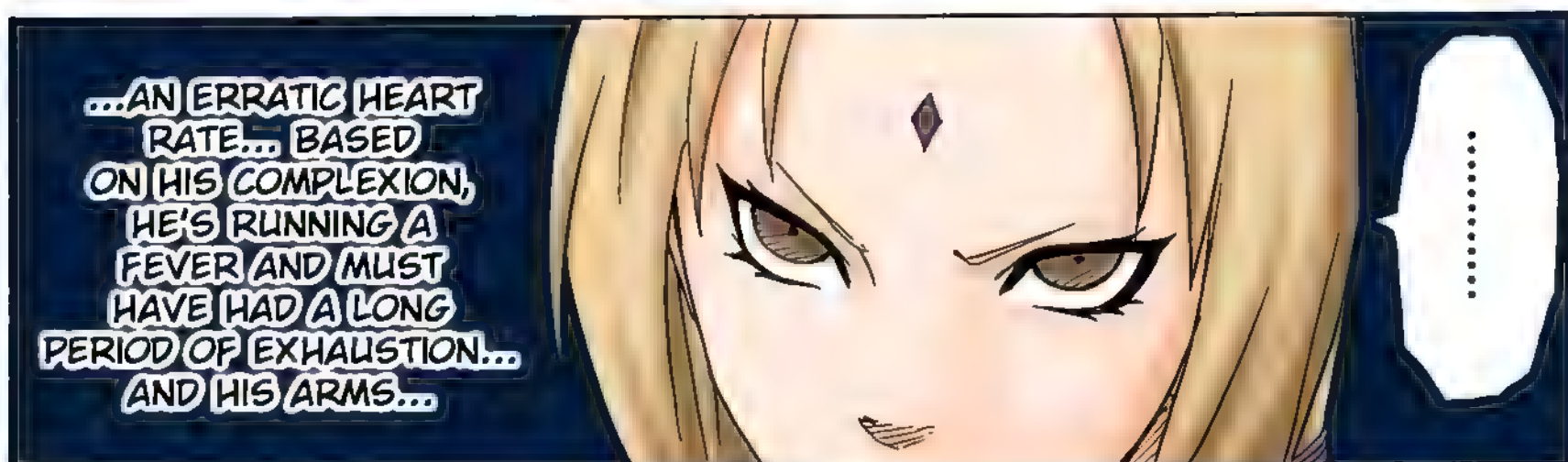






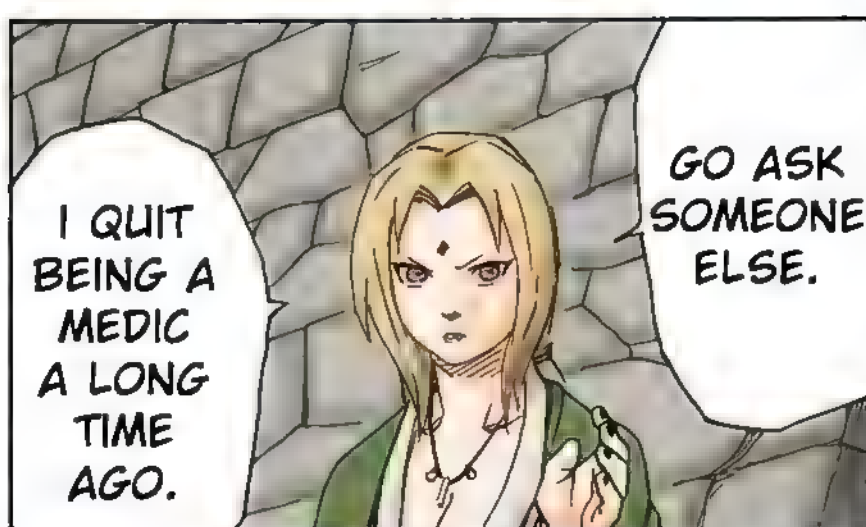


ACTUALLY,
I HAVE A
SMALL FAVOR
TO ASK OF
YOU...



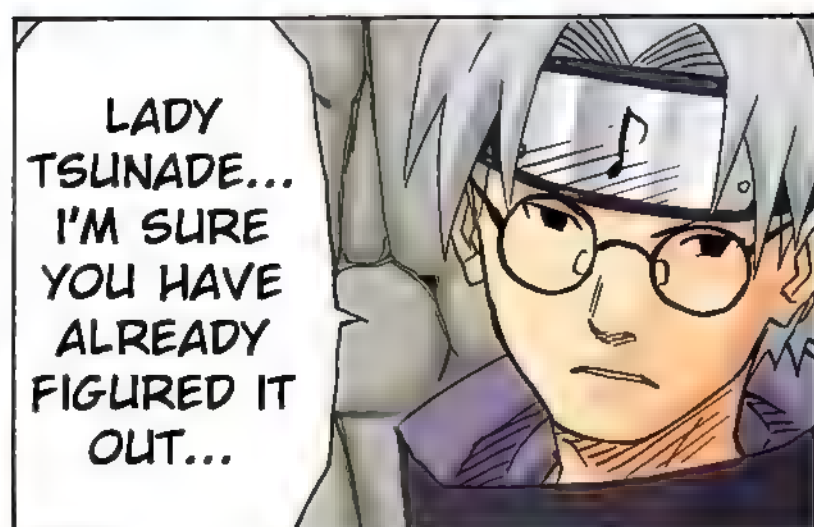
...AN ERRATIC HEART
RATE... BASED
ON HIS COMPLEXION,
HE'S RUNNING A
FEVER AND MUST
HAVE HAD A LONG
PERIOD OF EXHAUSTION...
AND HIS ARMS...

.....



I QUIT
BEING A
MEDIC
A LONG
TIME
AGO.

GO ASK
SOMEONE
ELSE.

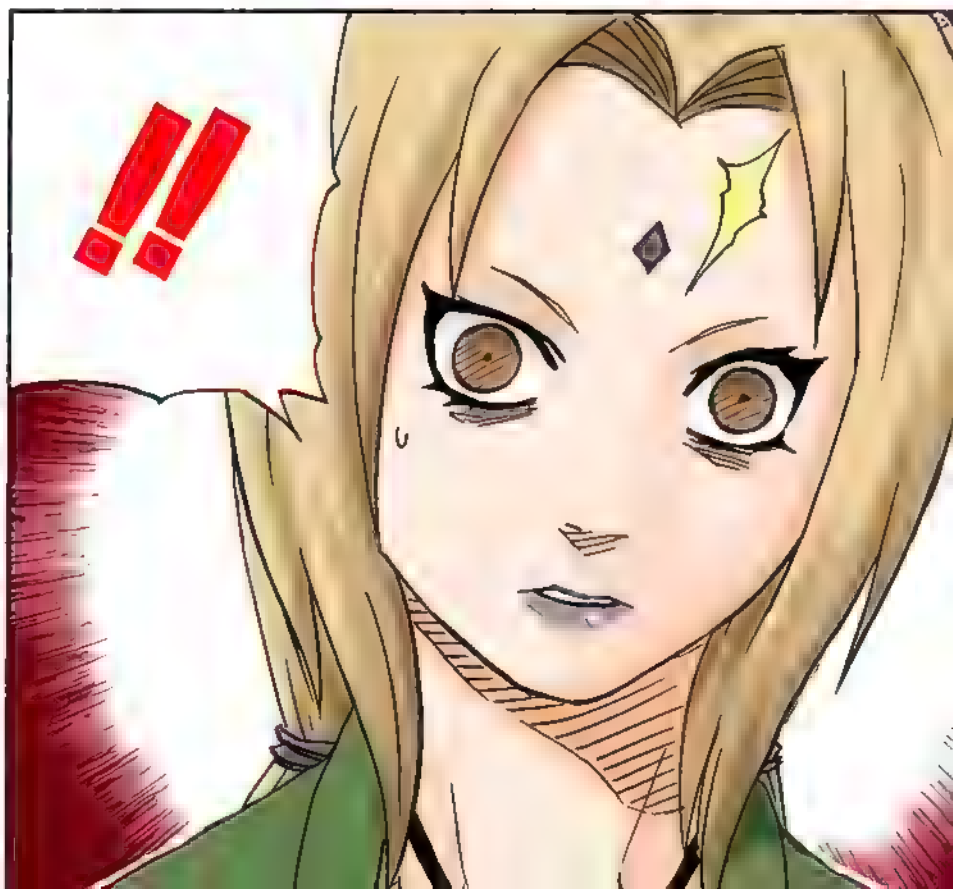
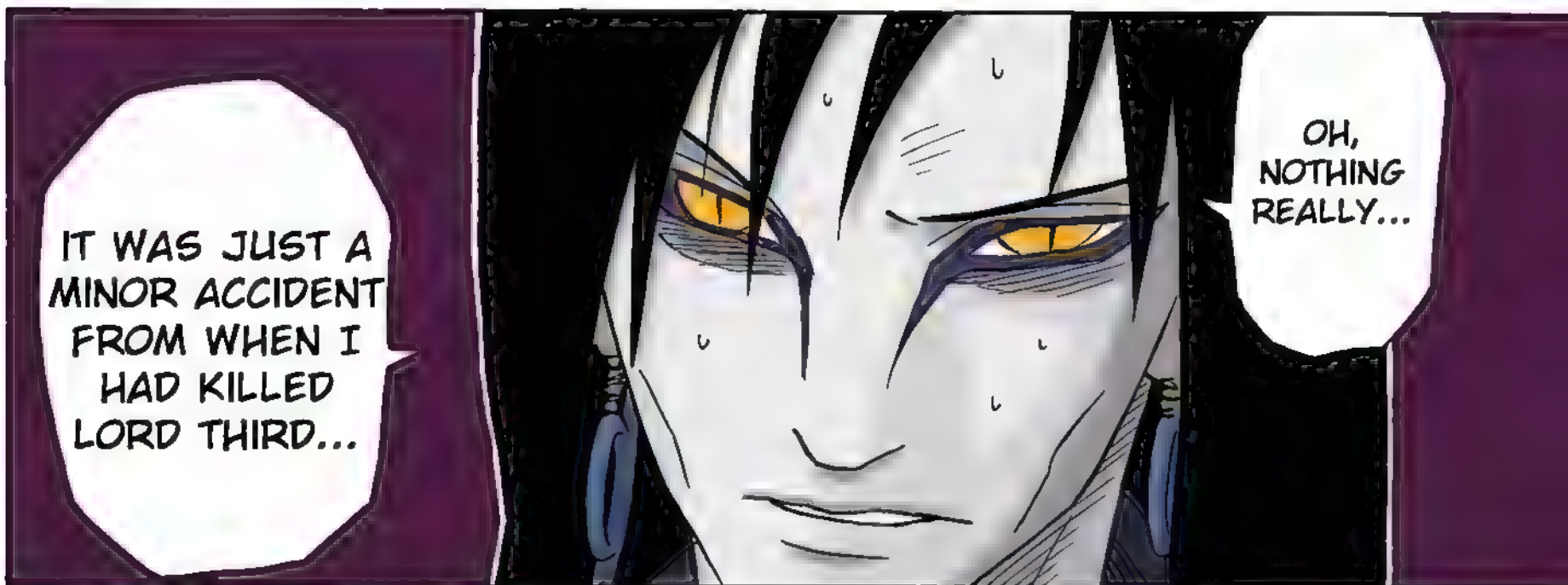


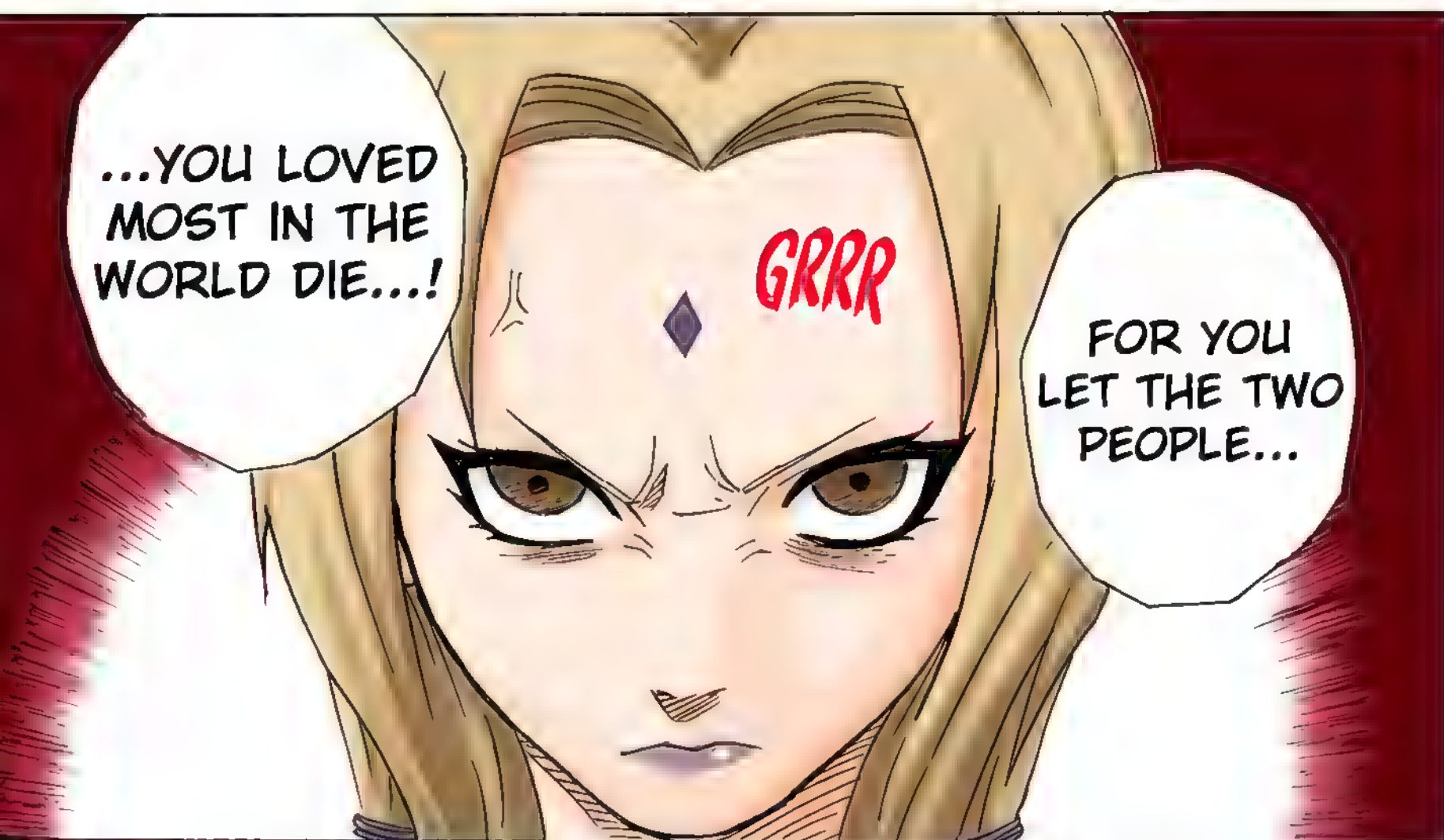
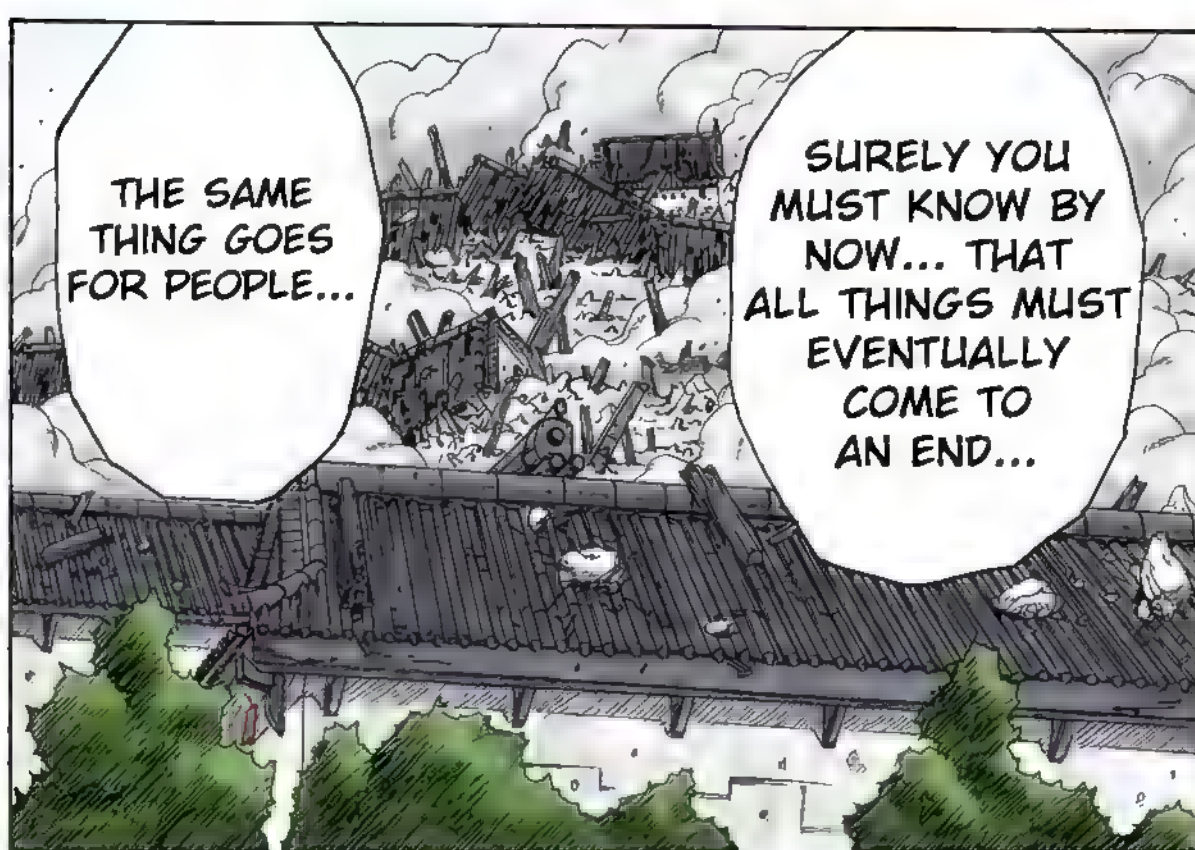
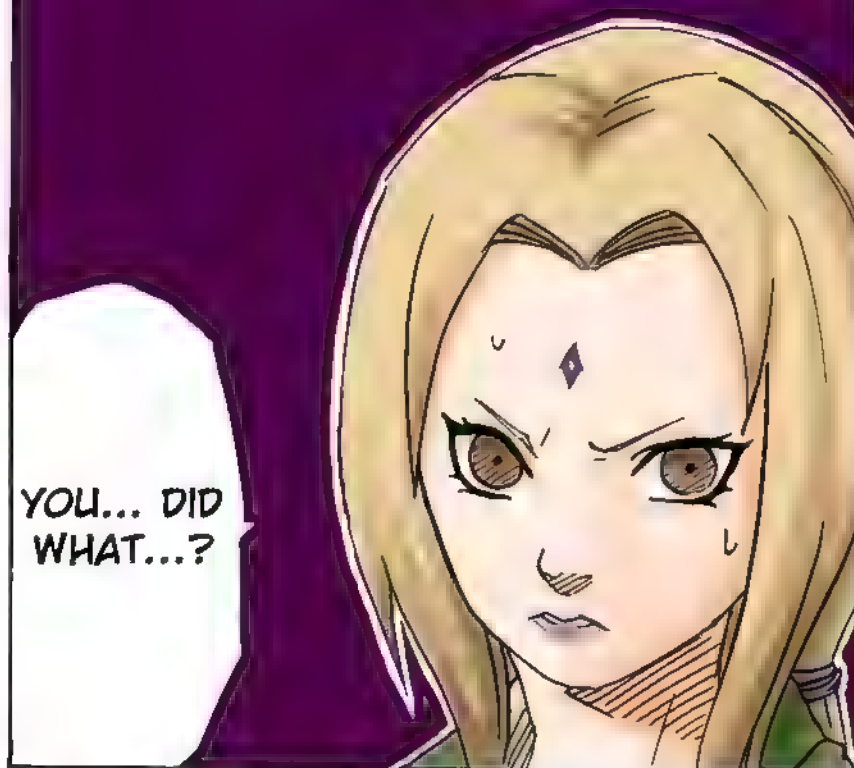
LADY
TSUNADE...
I'M SURE
YOU HAVE
ALREADY
FIGURED IT
OUT...



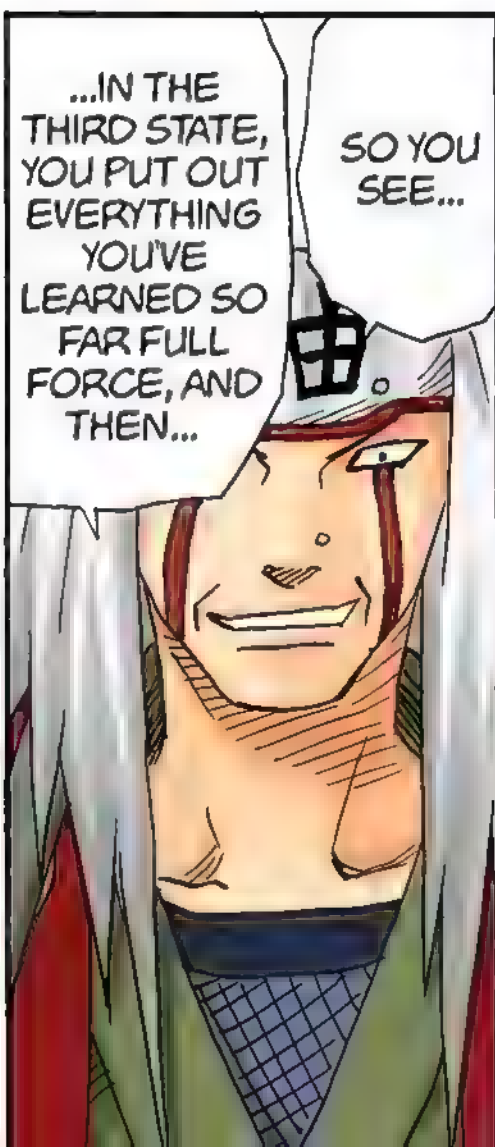
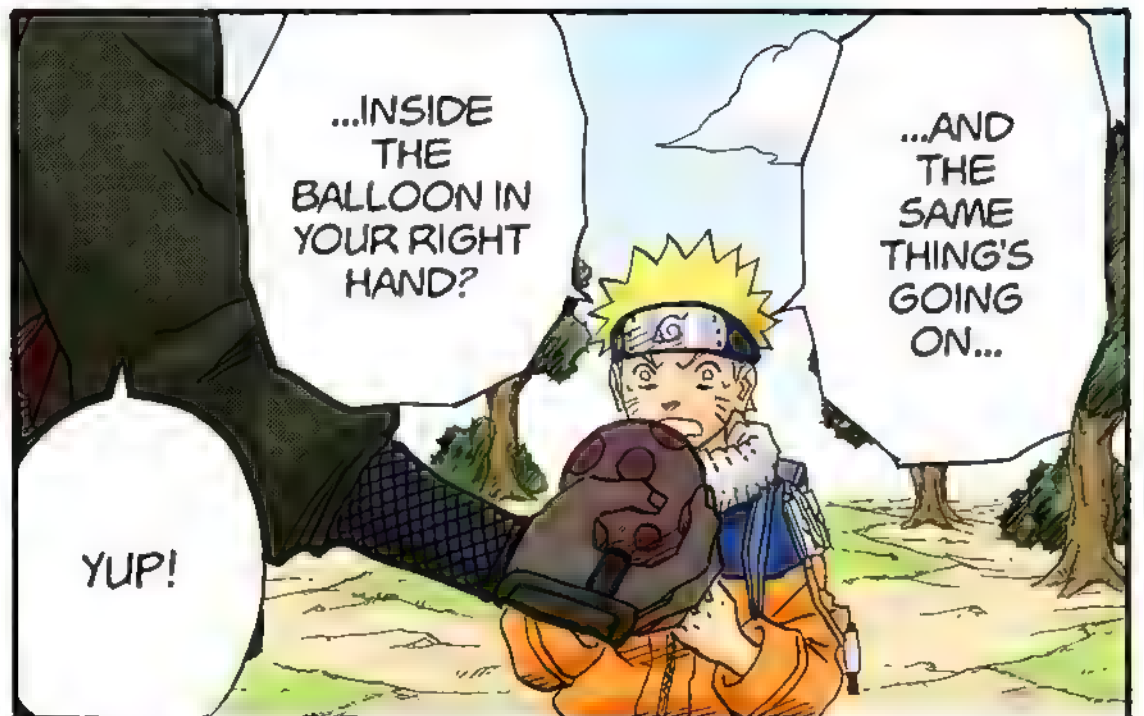
...CAN BE
CURED
BY NONE
OTHER THAN
YOURSELF.

BUT WE
CANNOT...
YOU MUST TRY
TO UNDERSTAND
THAT THE
WOUNDS
OF THESE
ARMS...







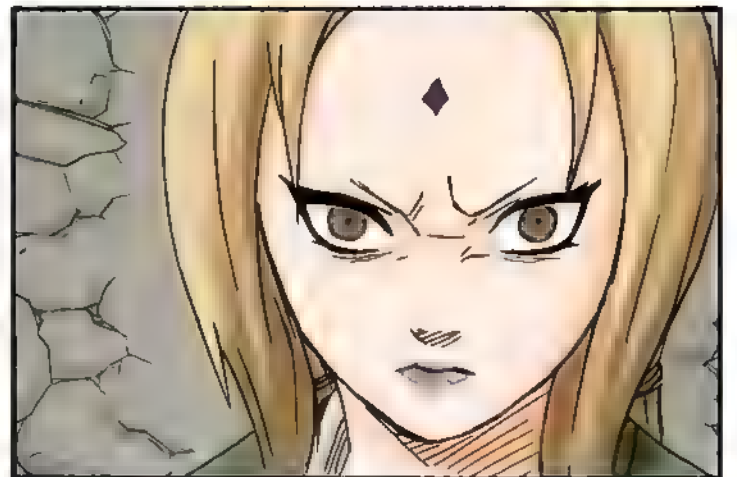
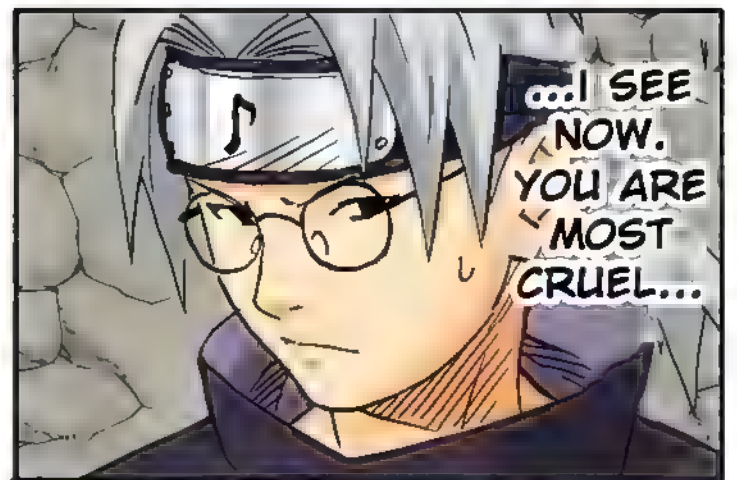
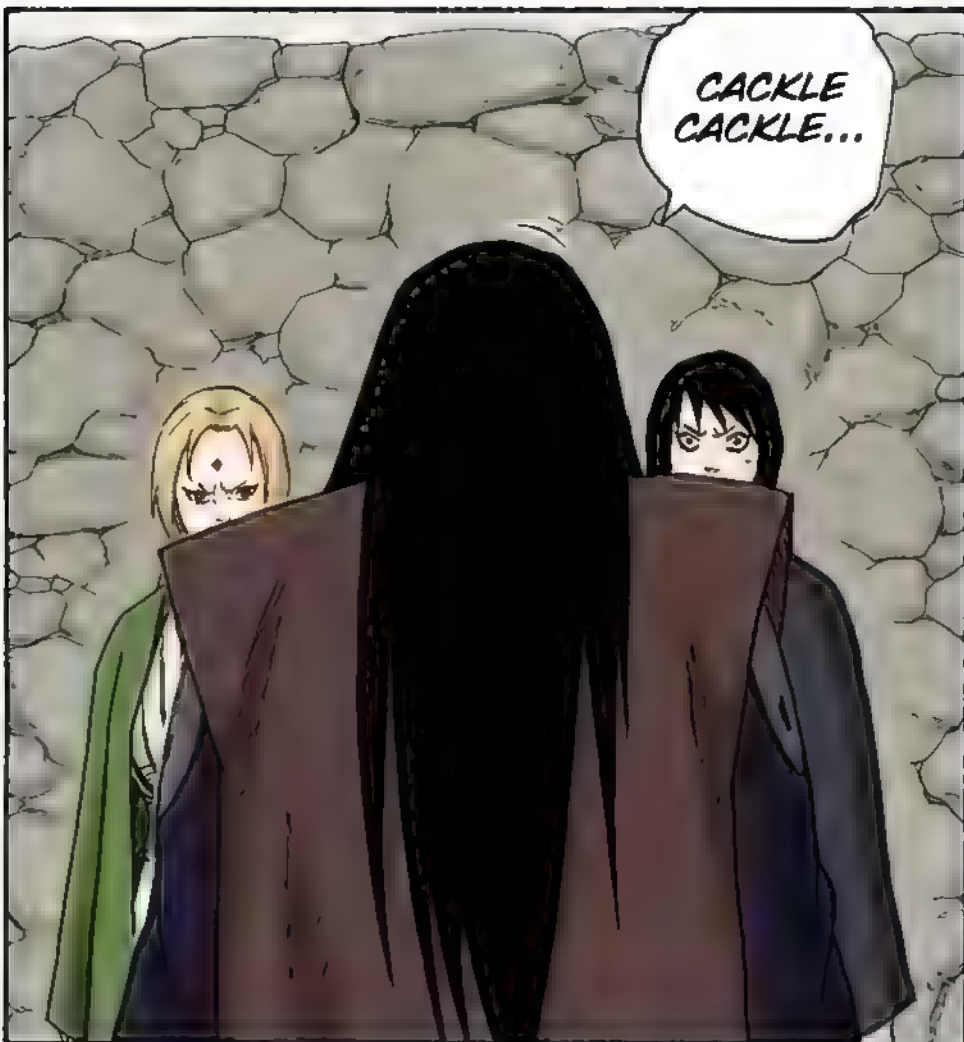


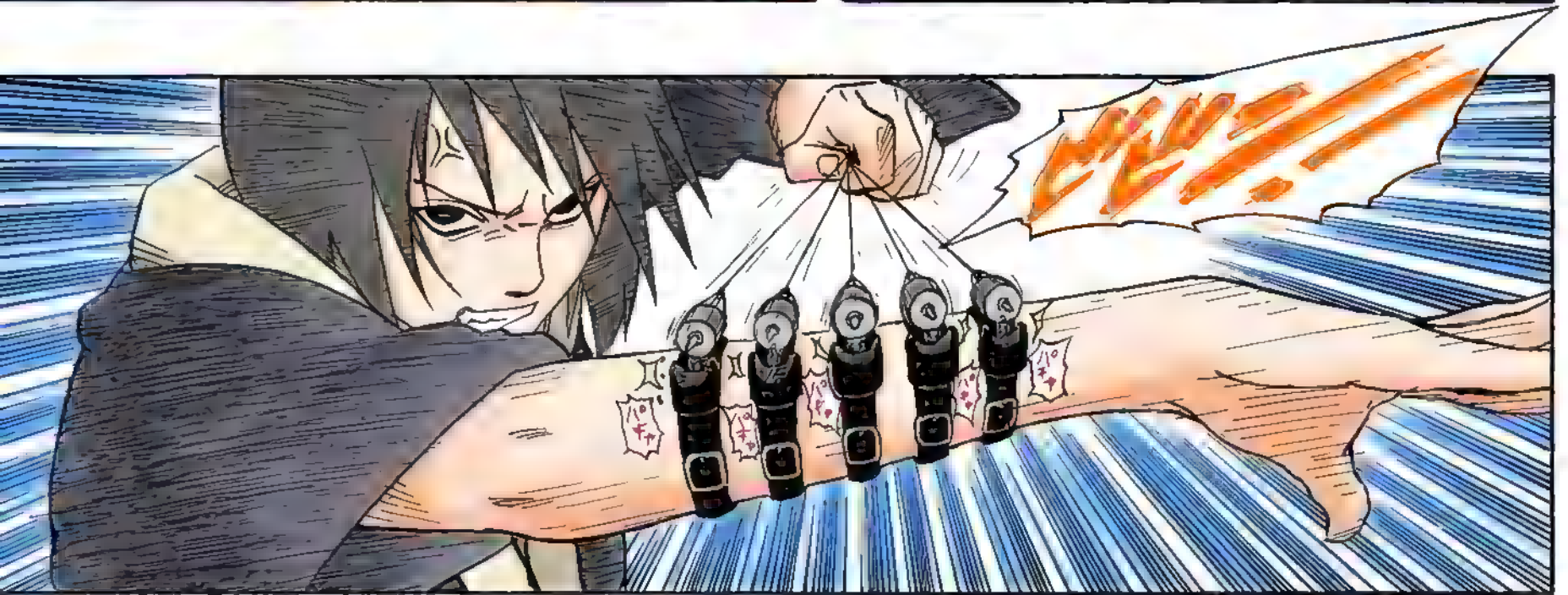
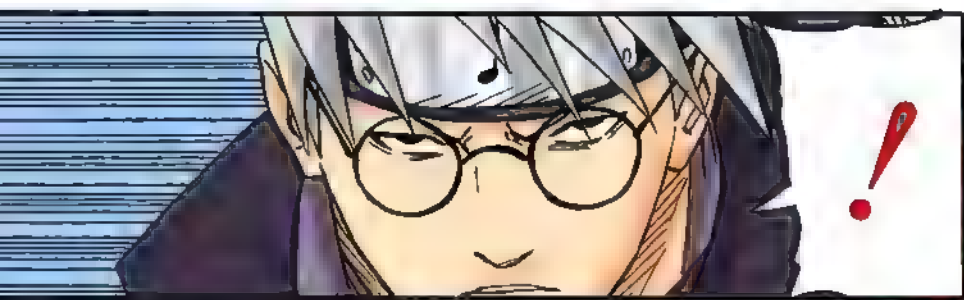
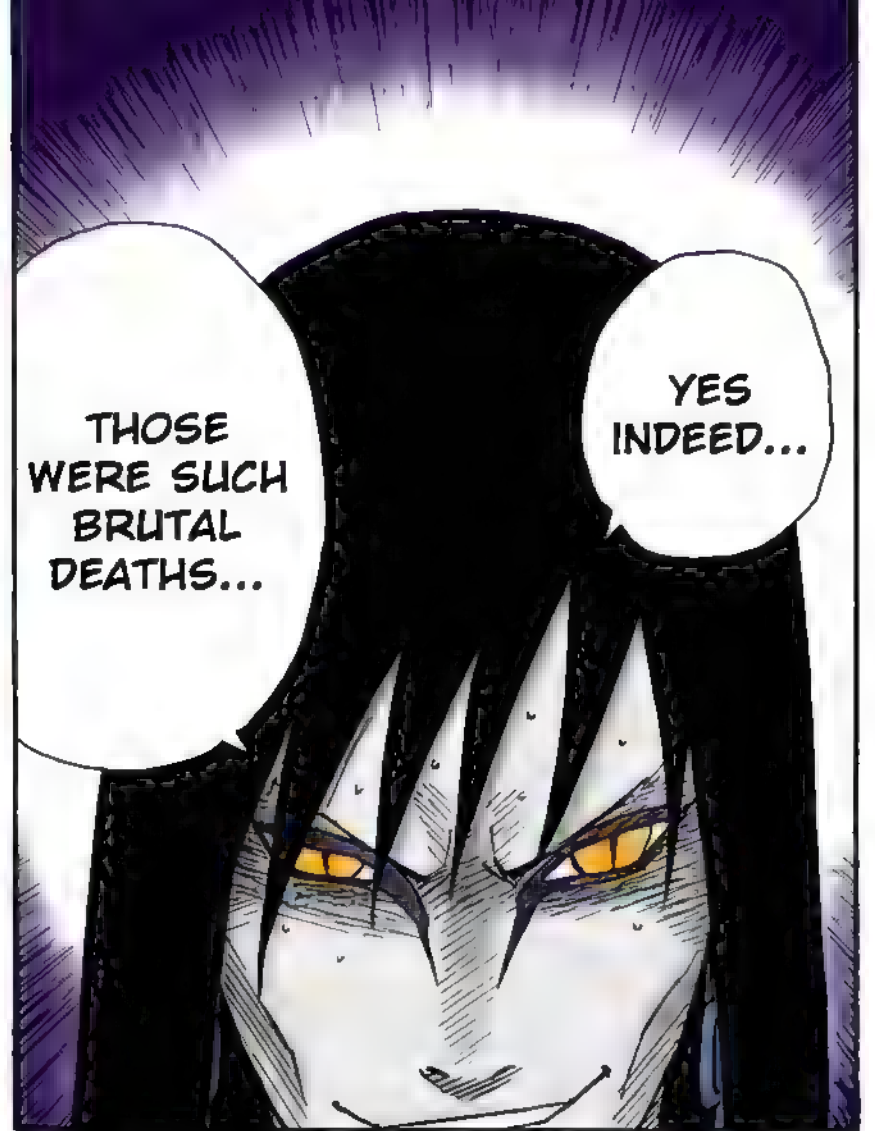
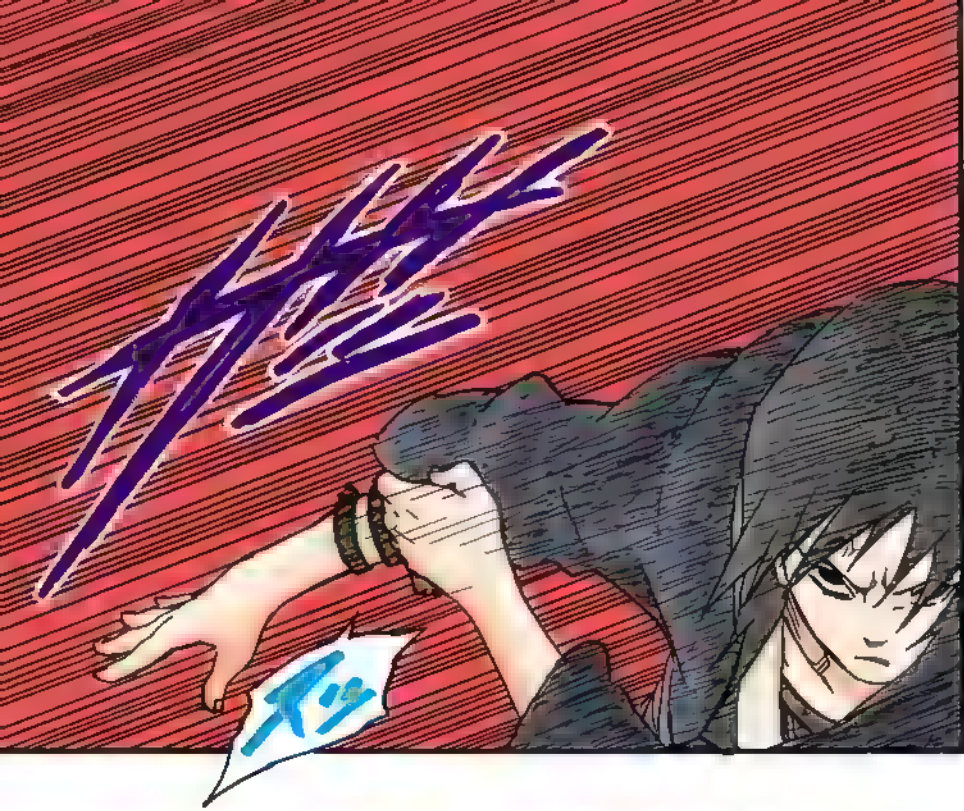
ナンバー

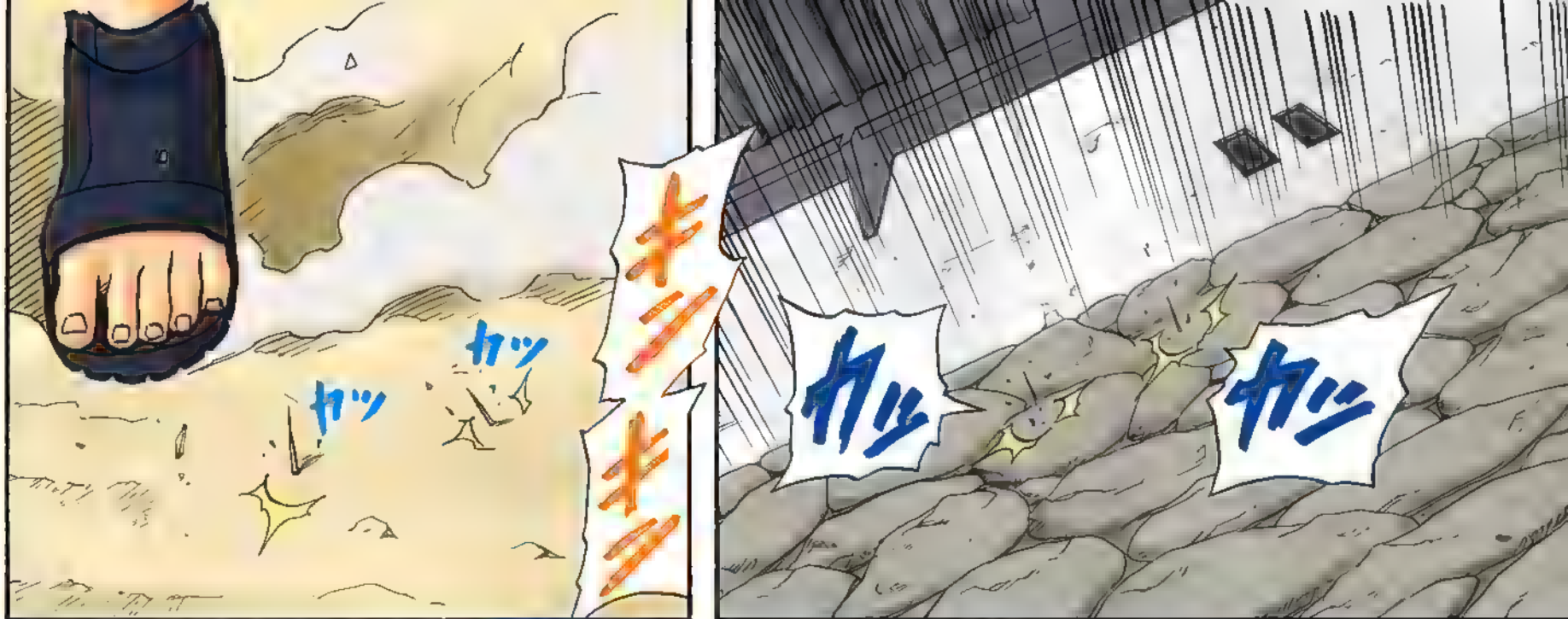


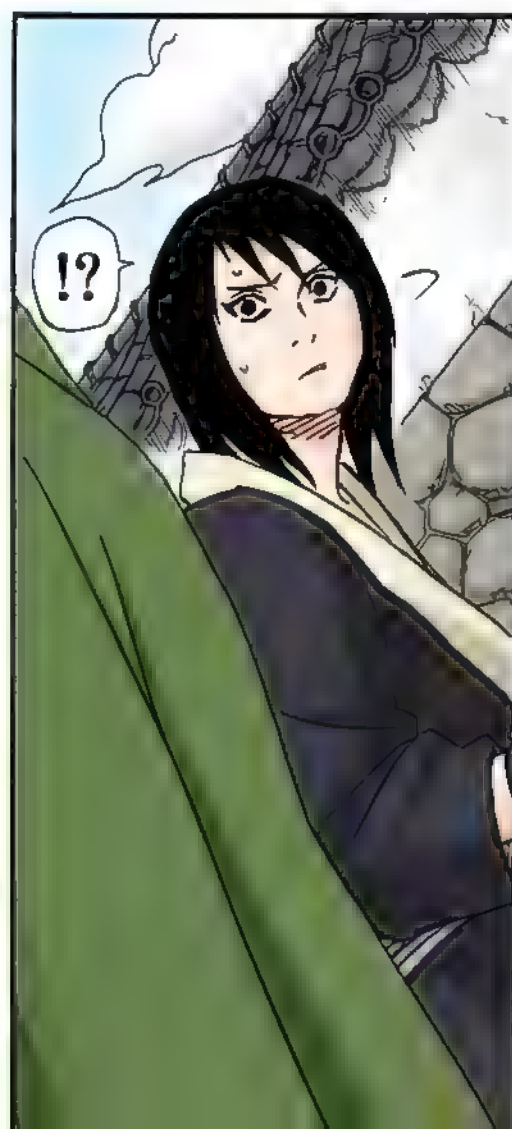
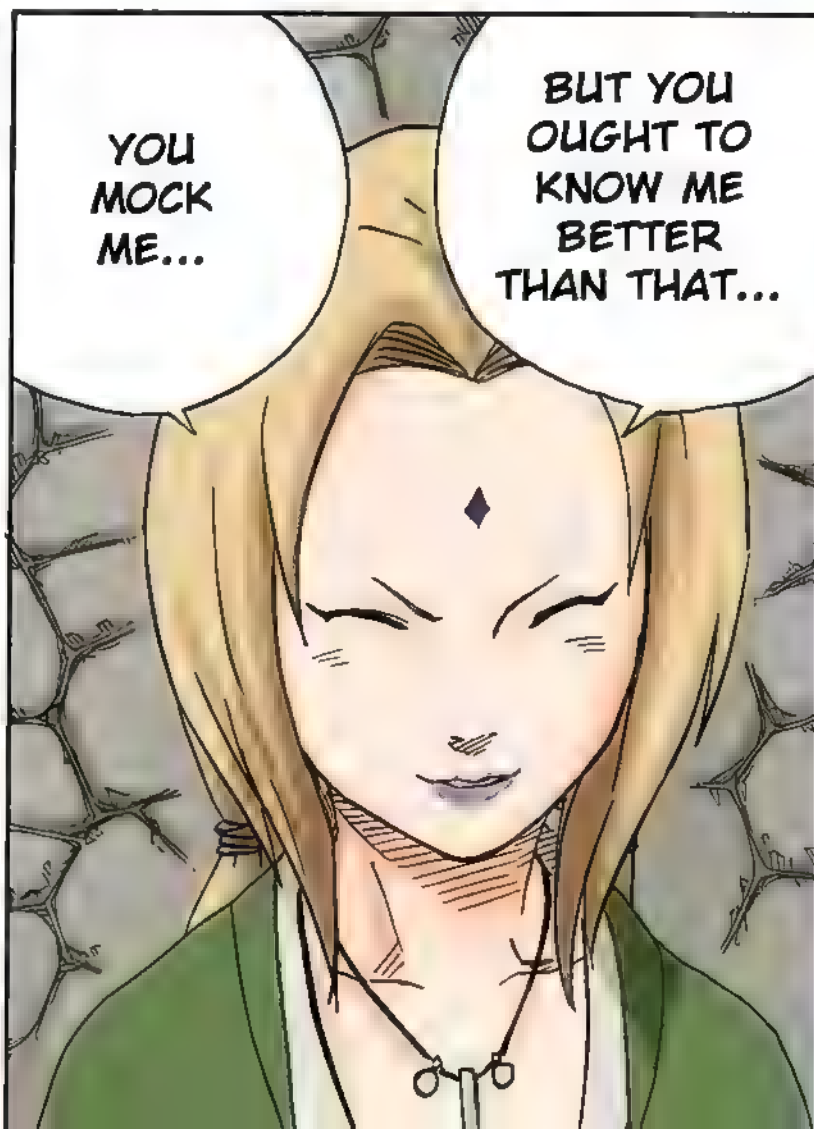
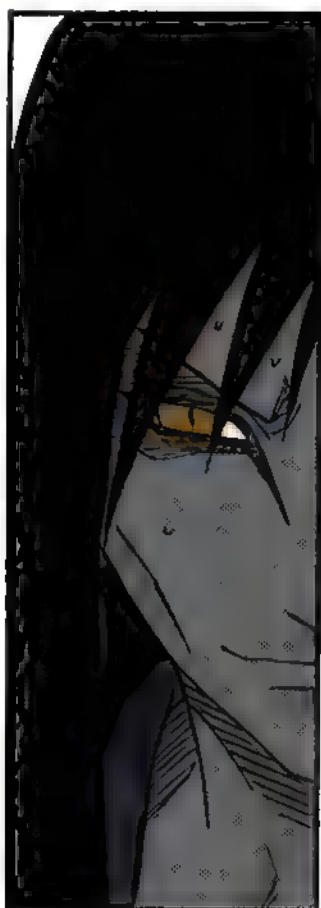
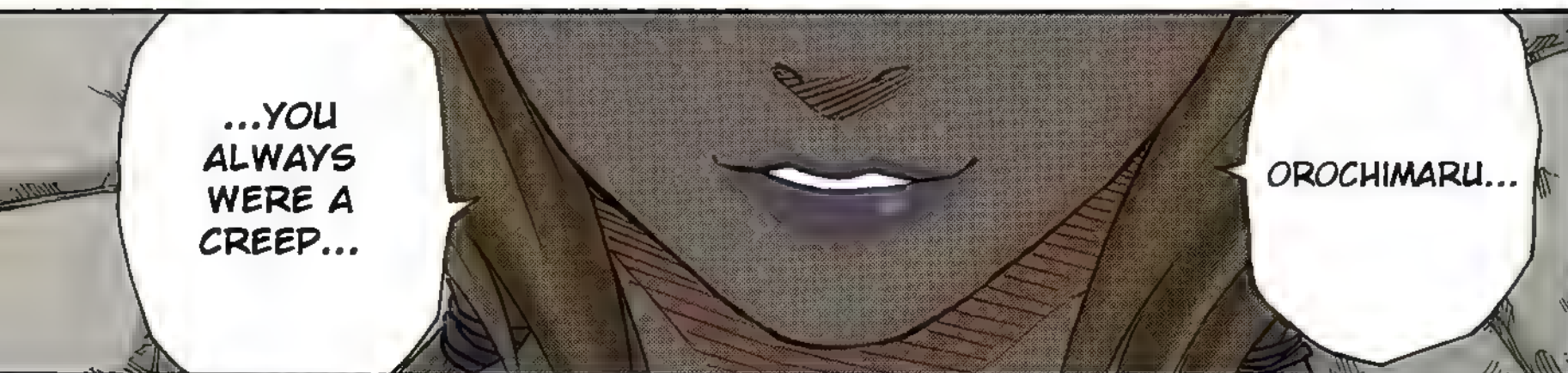
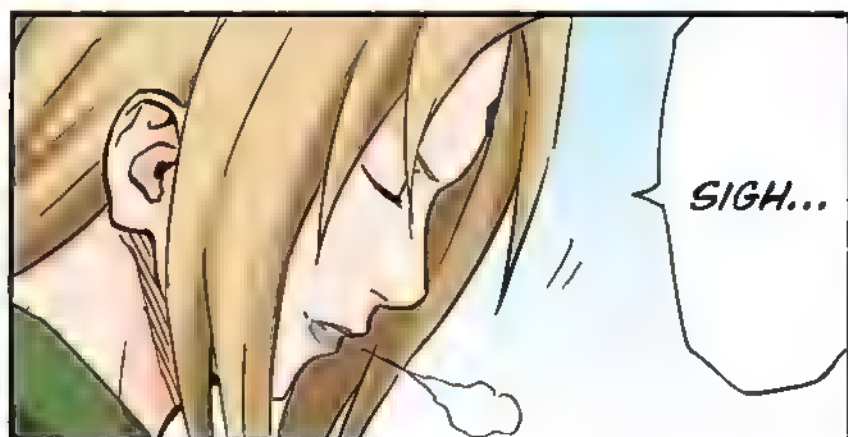
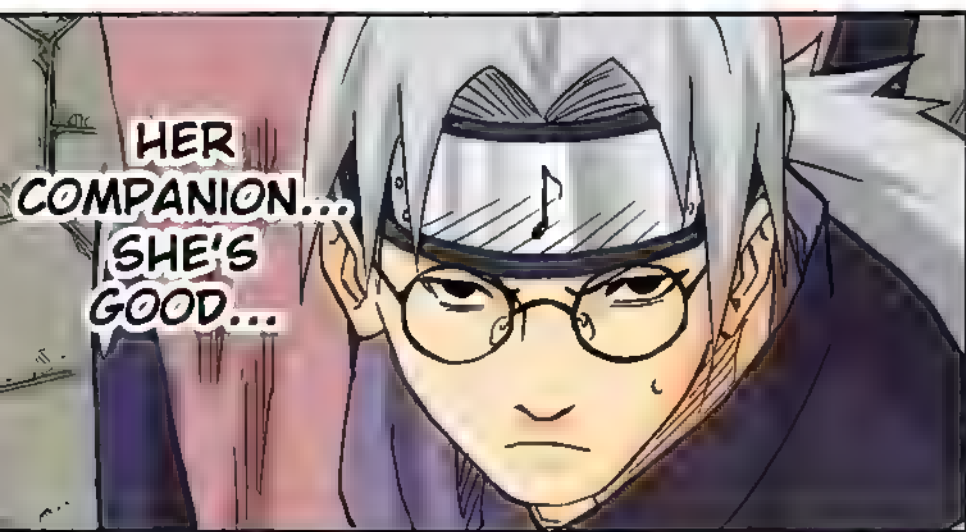
156 : THE OFFER

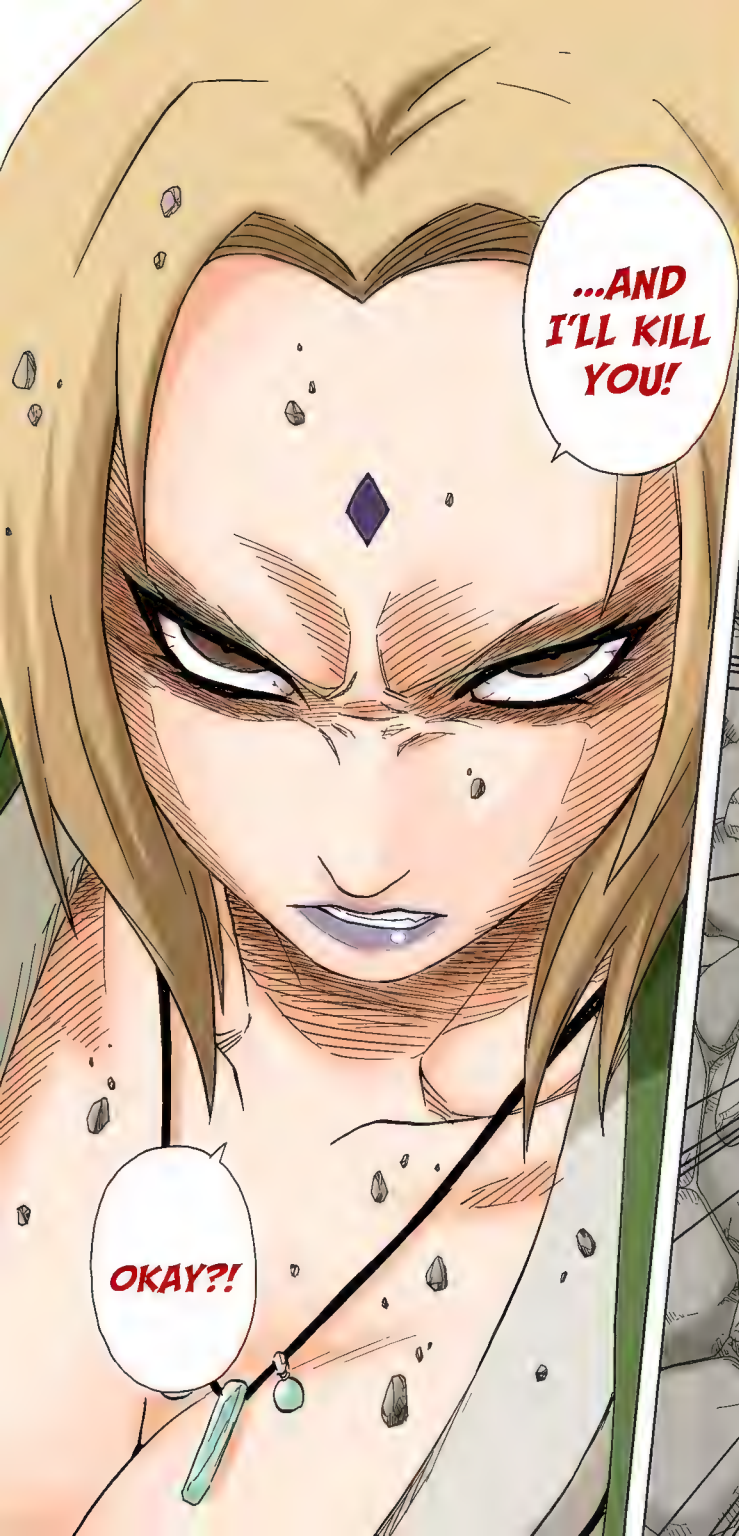






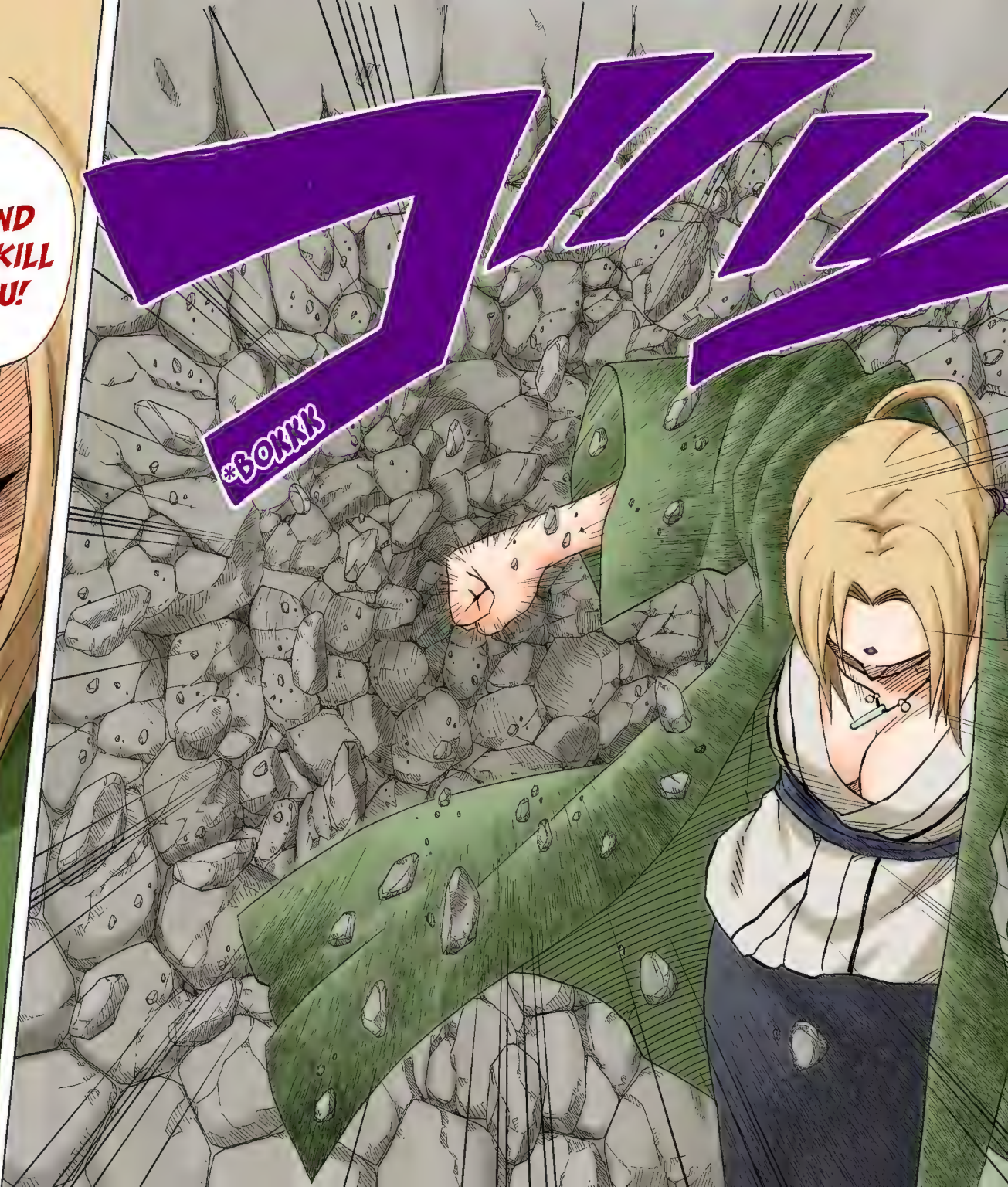




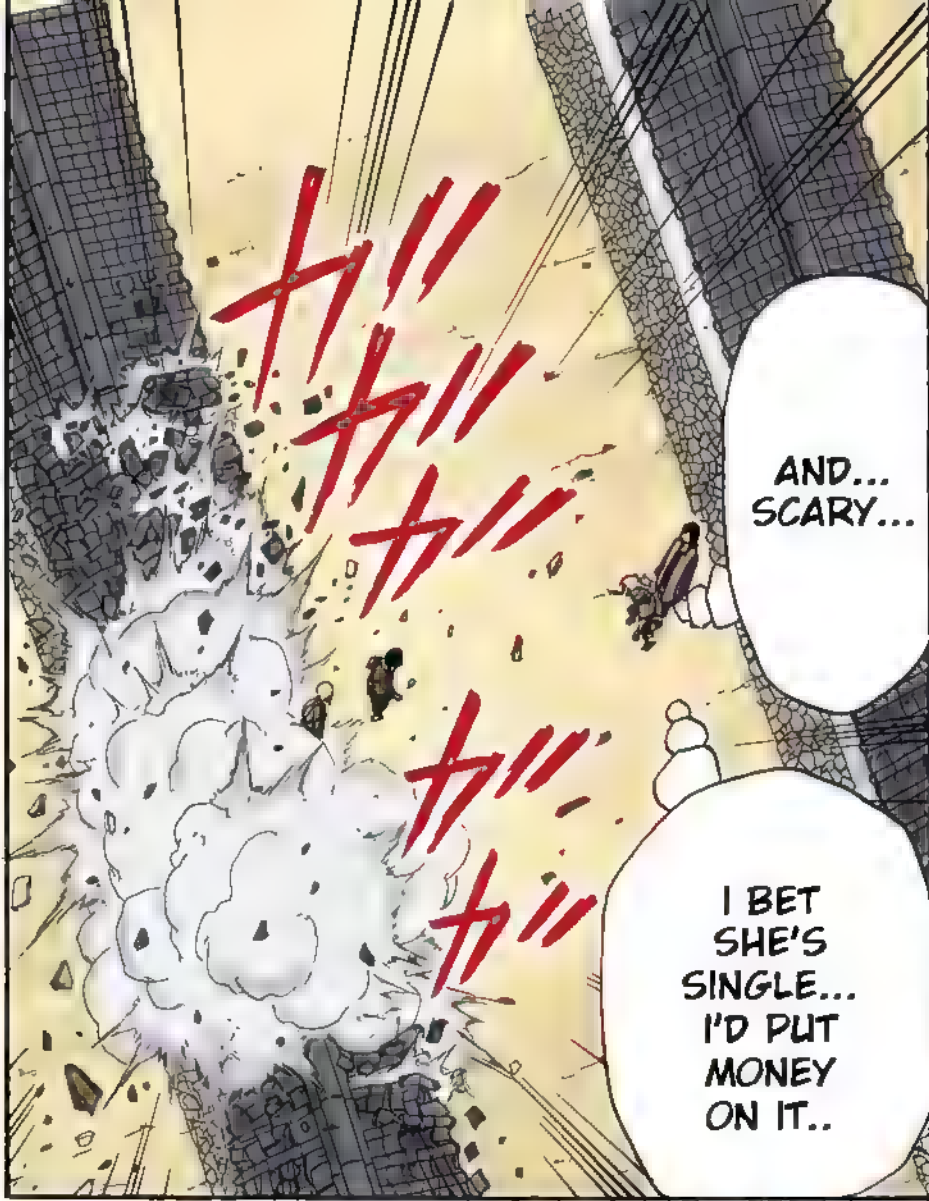


...AND
I'LL KILL
YOU!

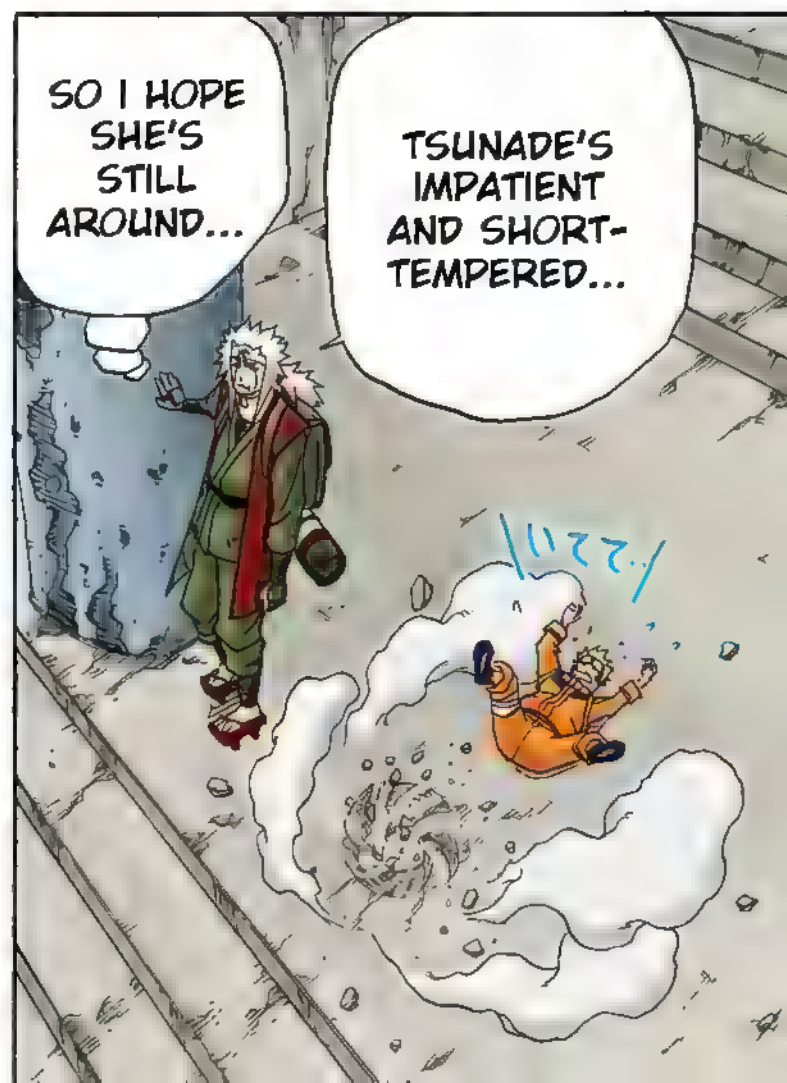
OKAY?!

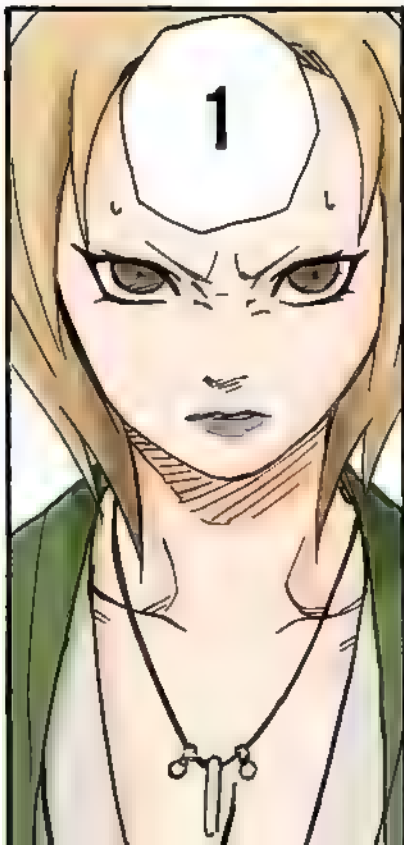
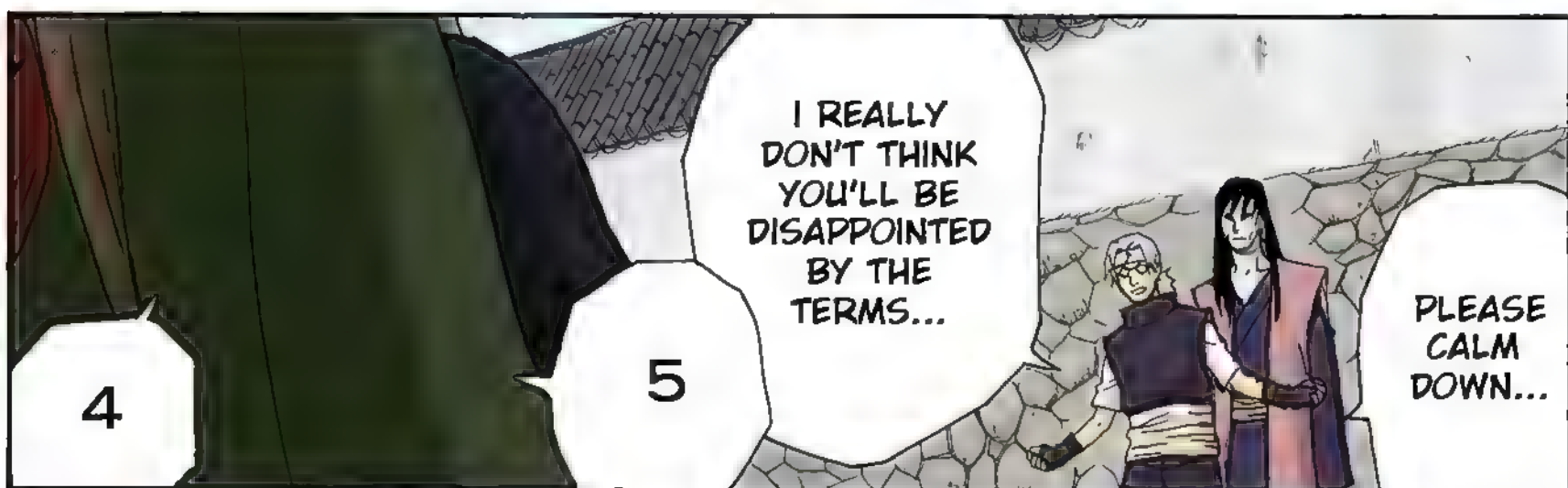
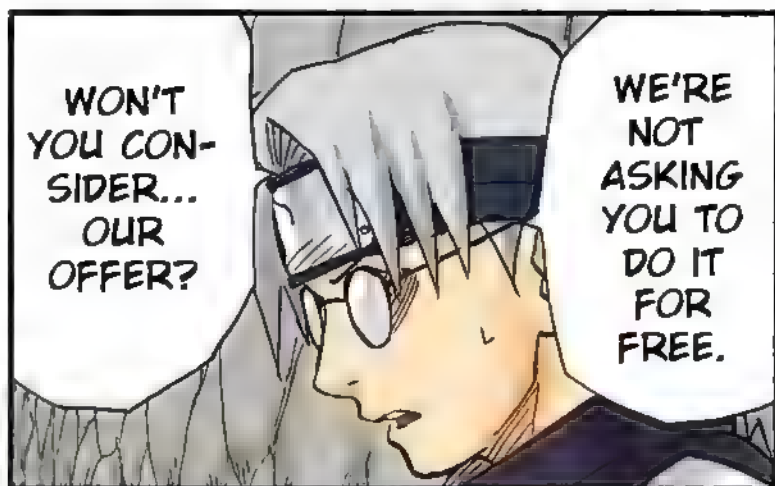


BOOM



SIGN: TANZAKU TOWN

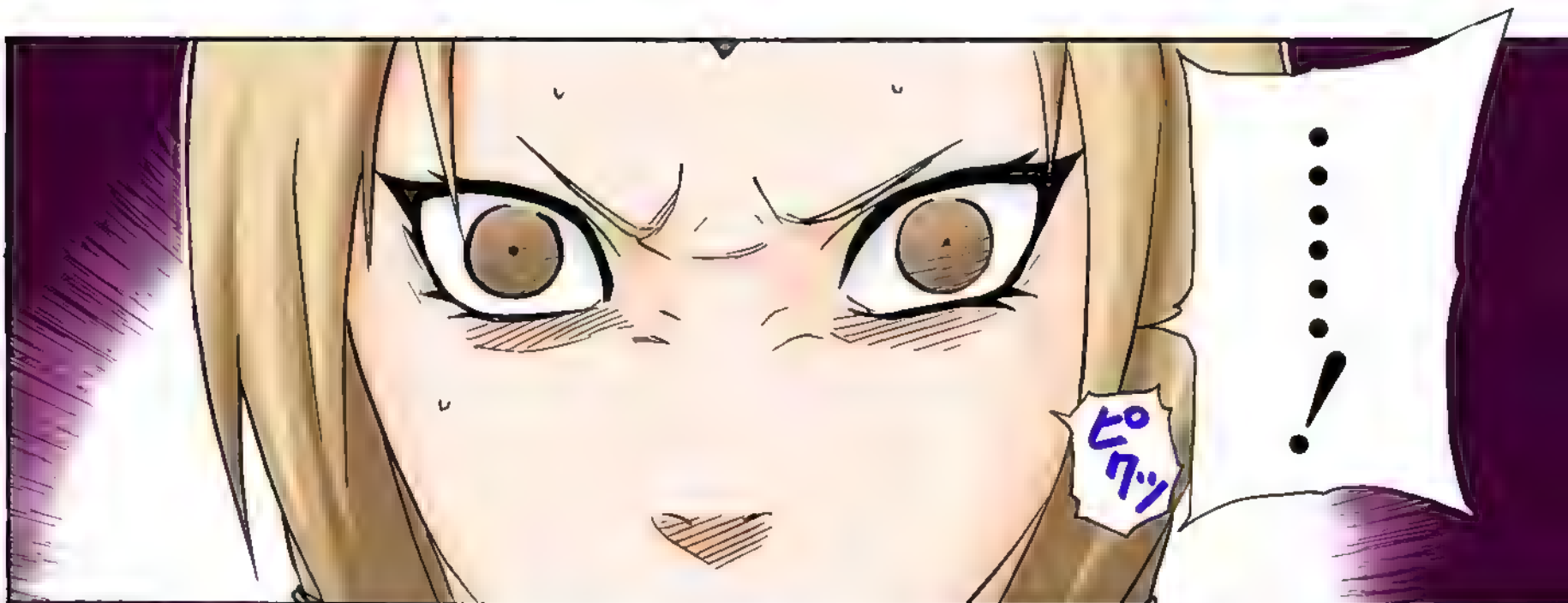






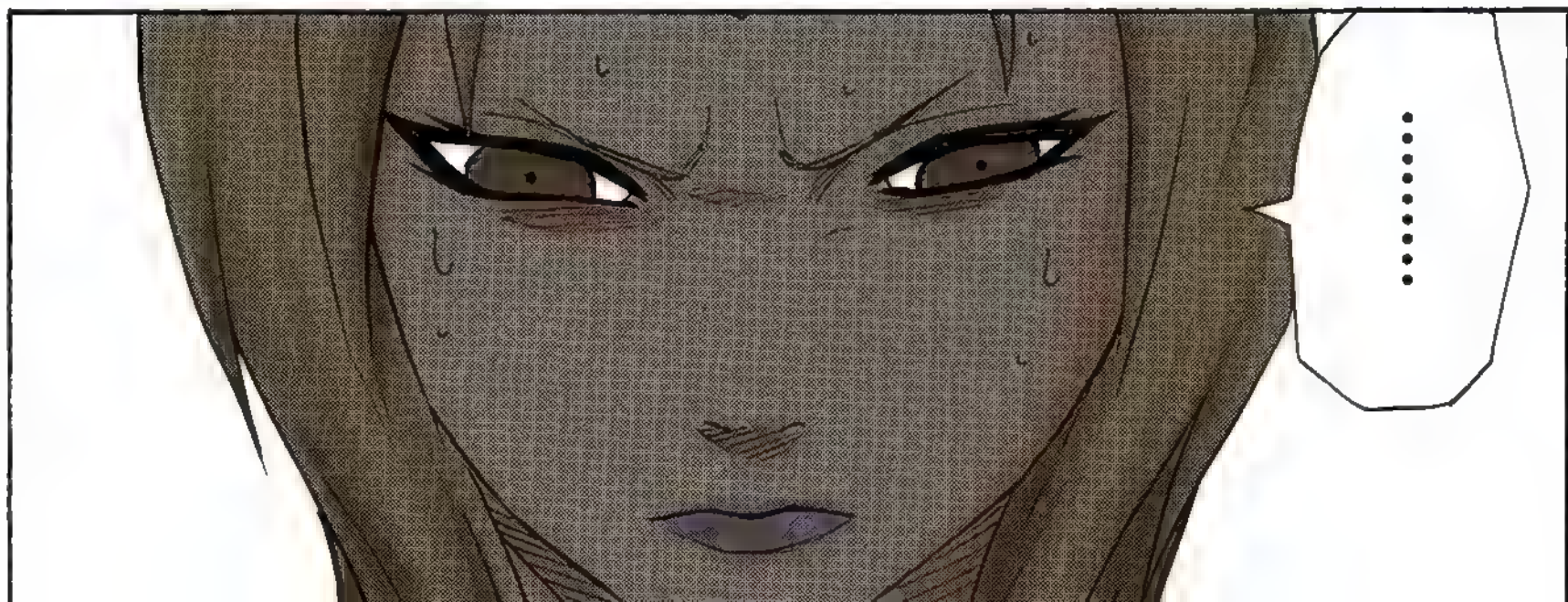
**...I CAN
REANIMATE
YOUR
BELOVED
LITTLE
BROTHER
AND YOUR
LOVER
BOTH...**

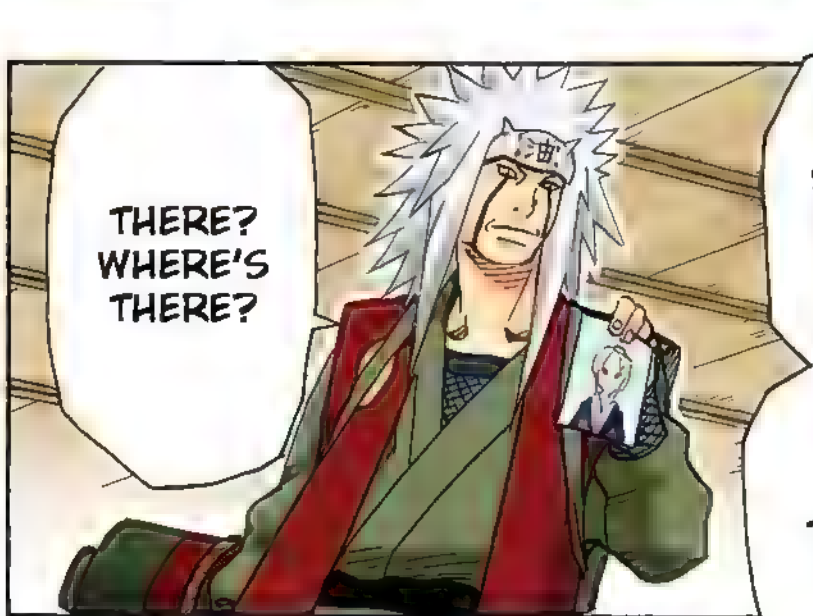
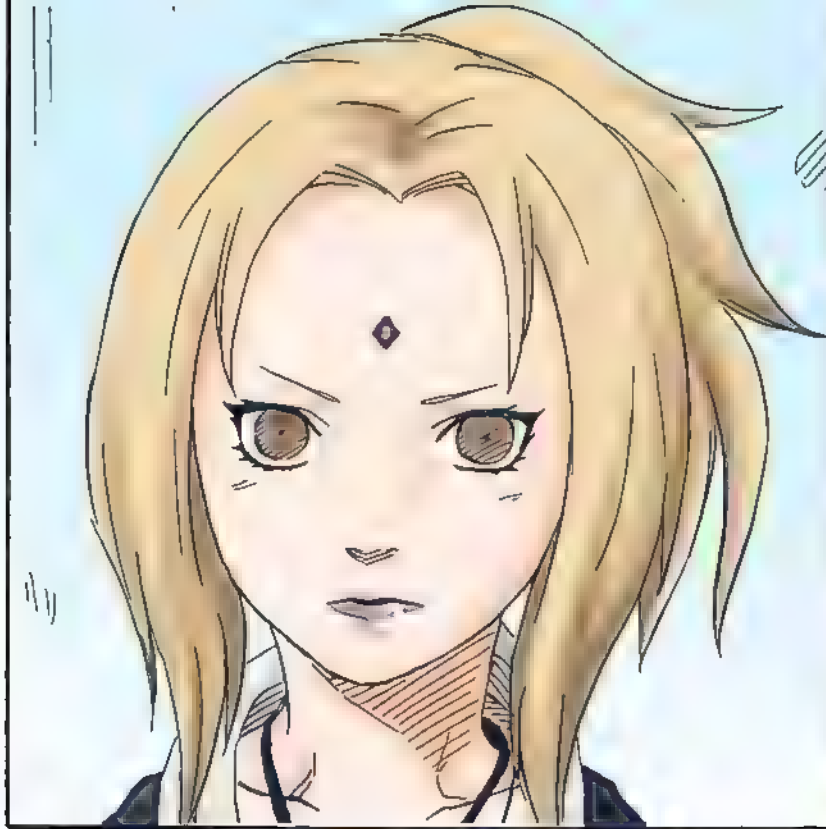
**I'VE
LEARNED
THE
FORBIDDEN
JUTSU..**



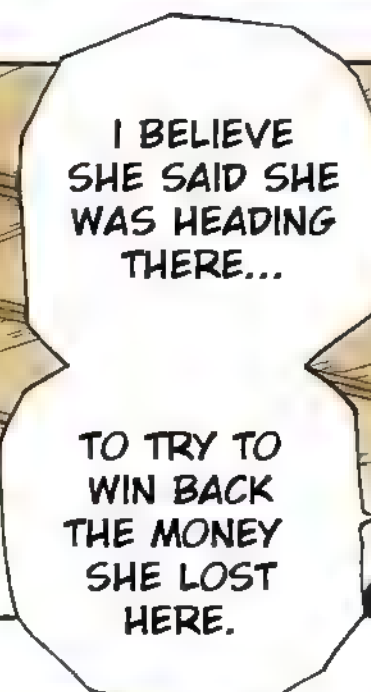
ヒョーン

.....
!





THERE?
WHERE'S
THERE?



I BELIEVE
SHE SAID SHE
WAS HEADING
THERE...

TO TRY TO
WIN BACK
THE MONEY
SHE LOST
HERE.

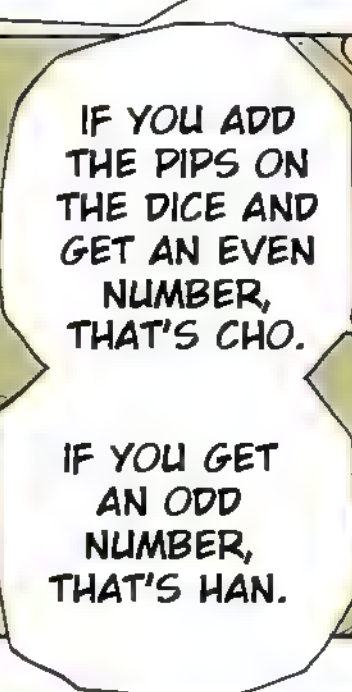


AAH...!

I THINK I
KNOW THAT
LADY...



SHUT UP!
CAN'T YOU
SEE I'M BUSY
HERE?!
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

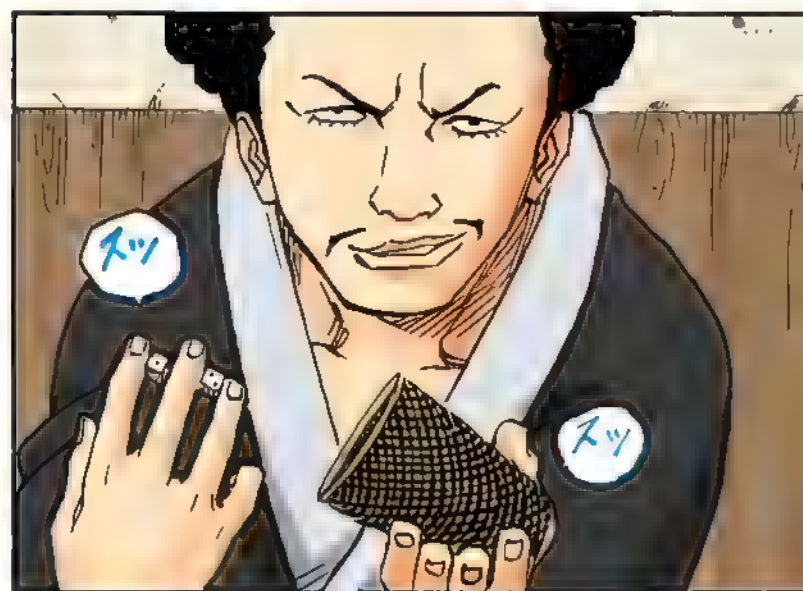
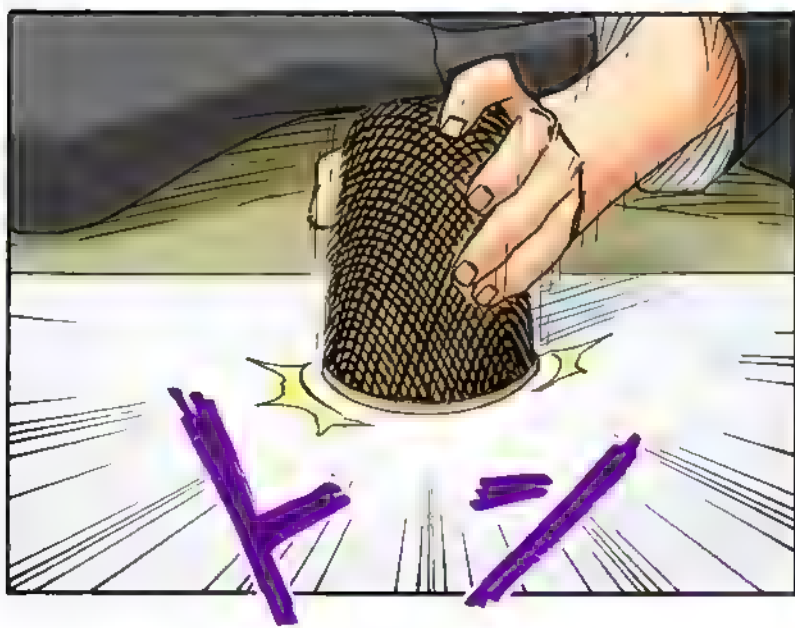


IF YOU ADD
THE PIPS ON
THE DICE AND
GET AN EVEN
NUMBER,
THAT'S CHO.

IF YOU GET
AN ODD
NUMBER,
THAT'S HAN.



LOOKIE
HERE,
BOY.

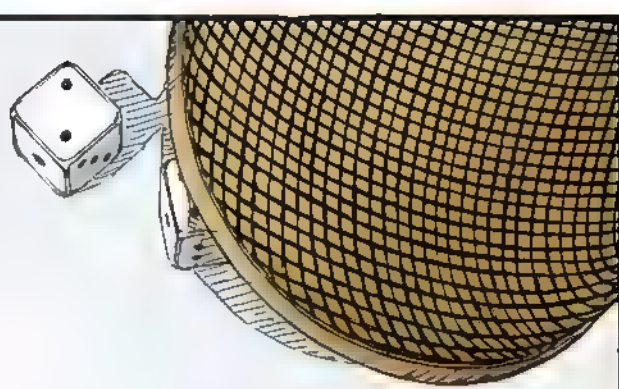
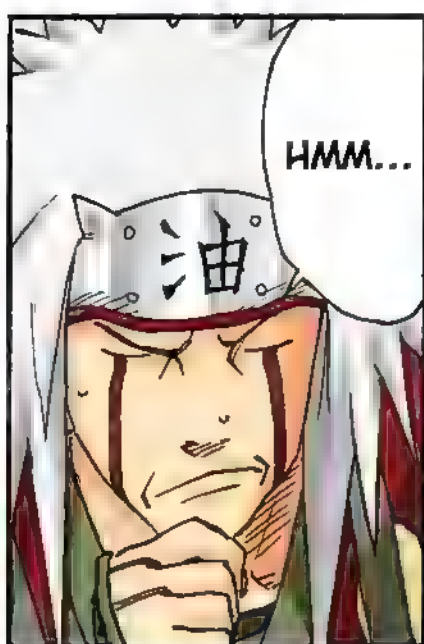


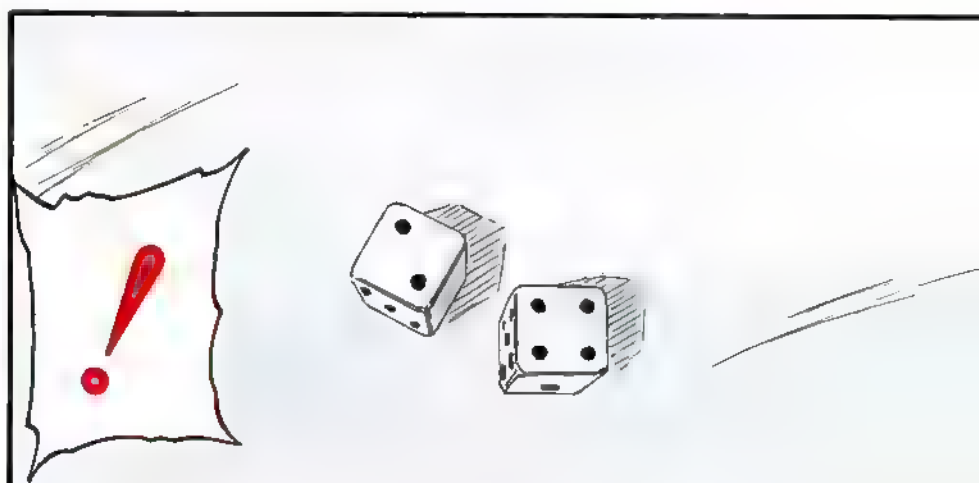
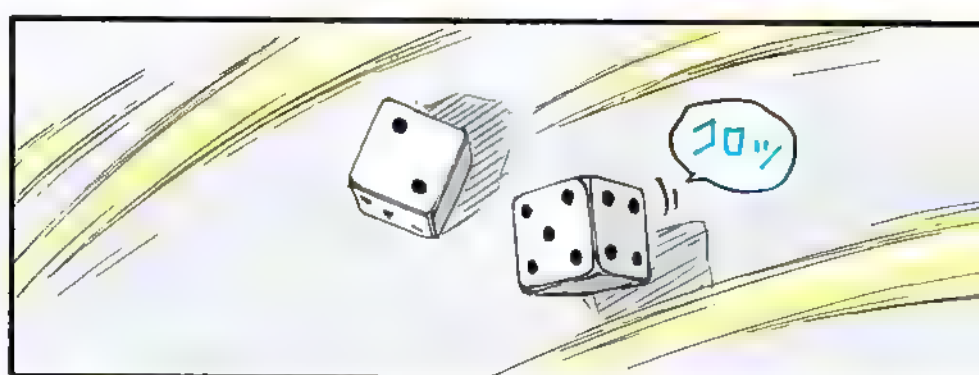
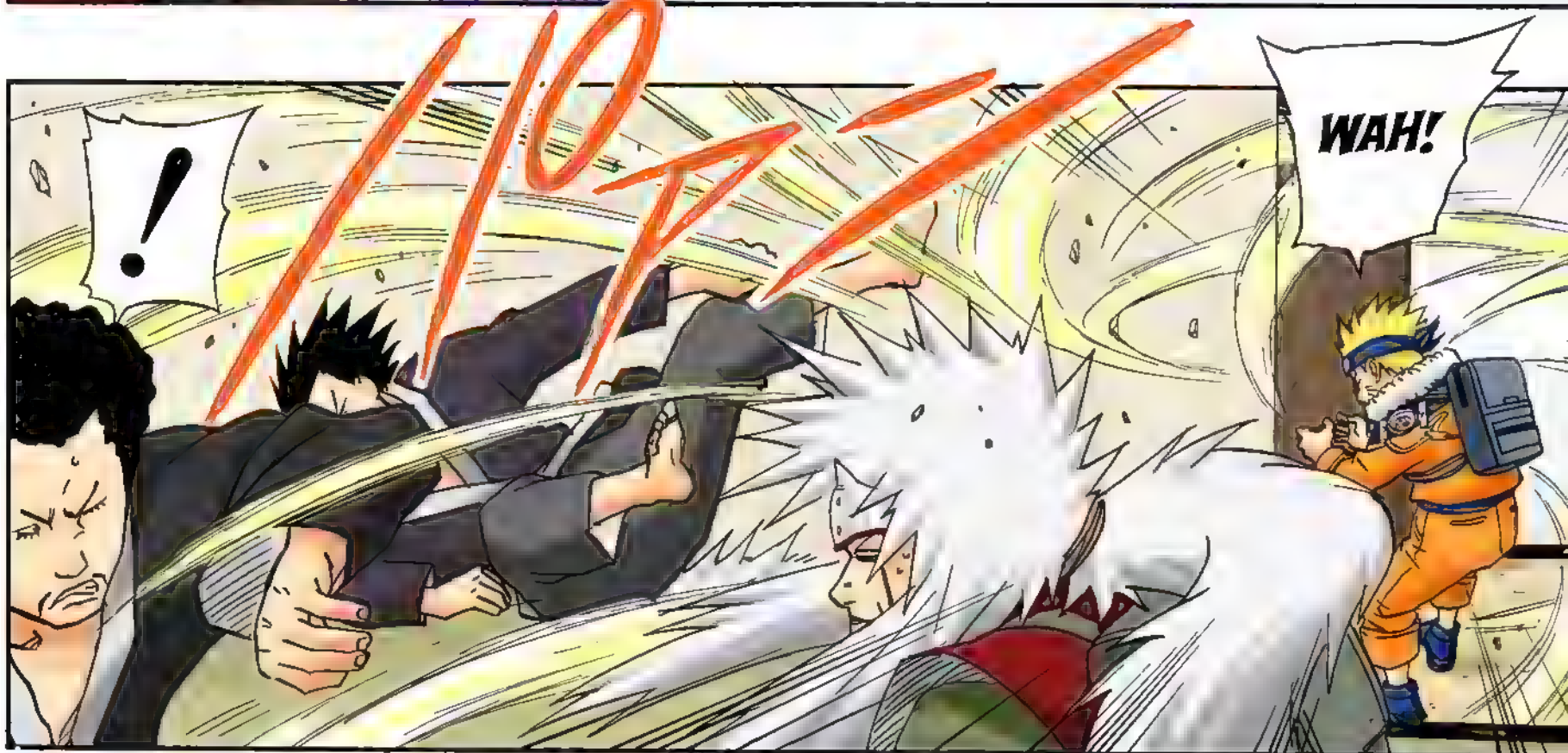
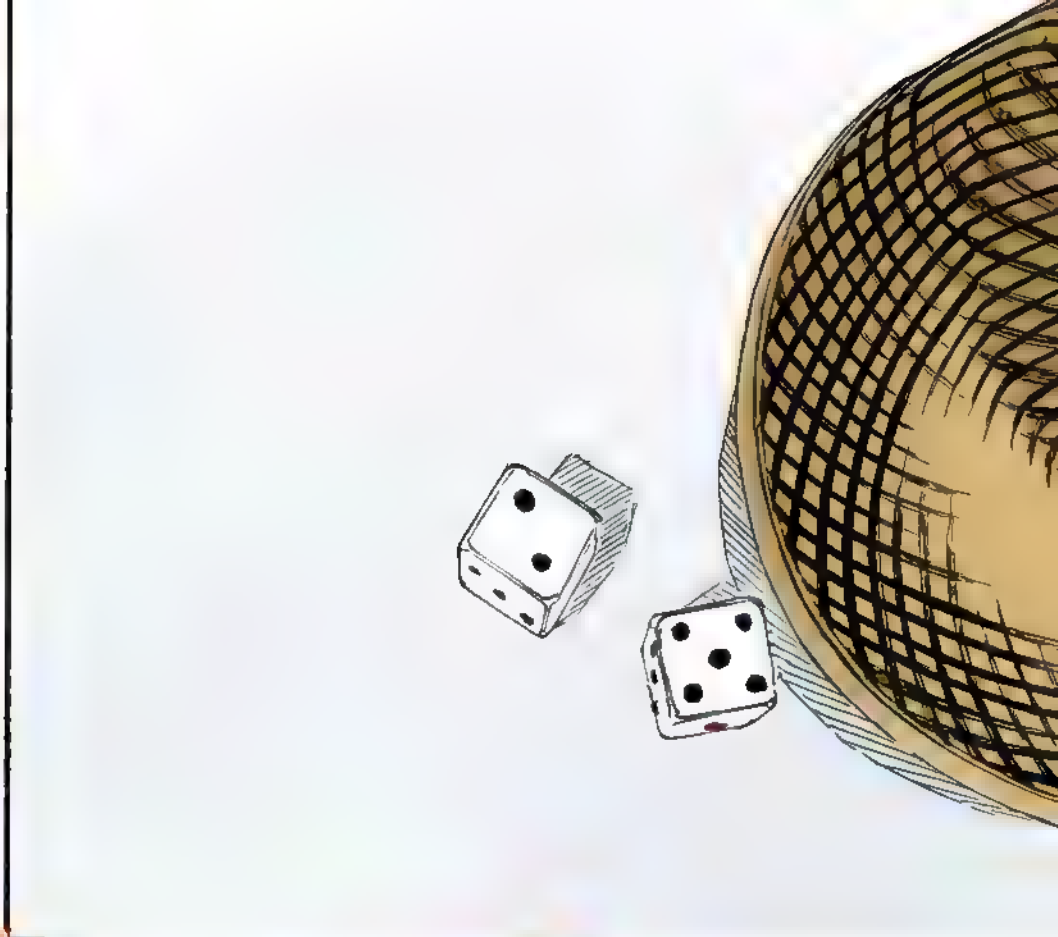
ズッ

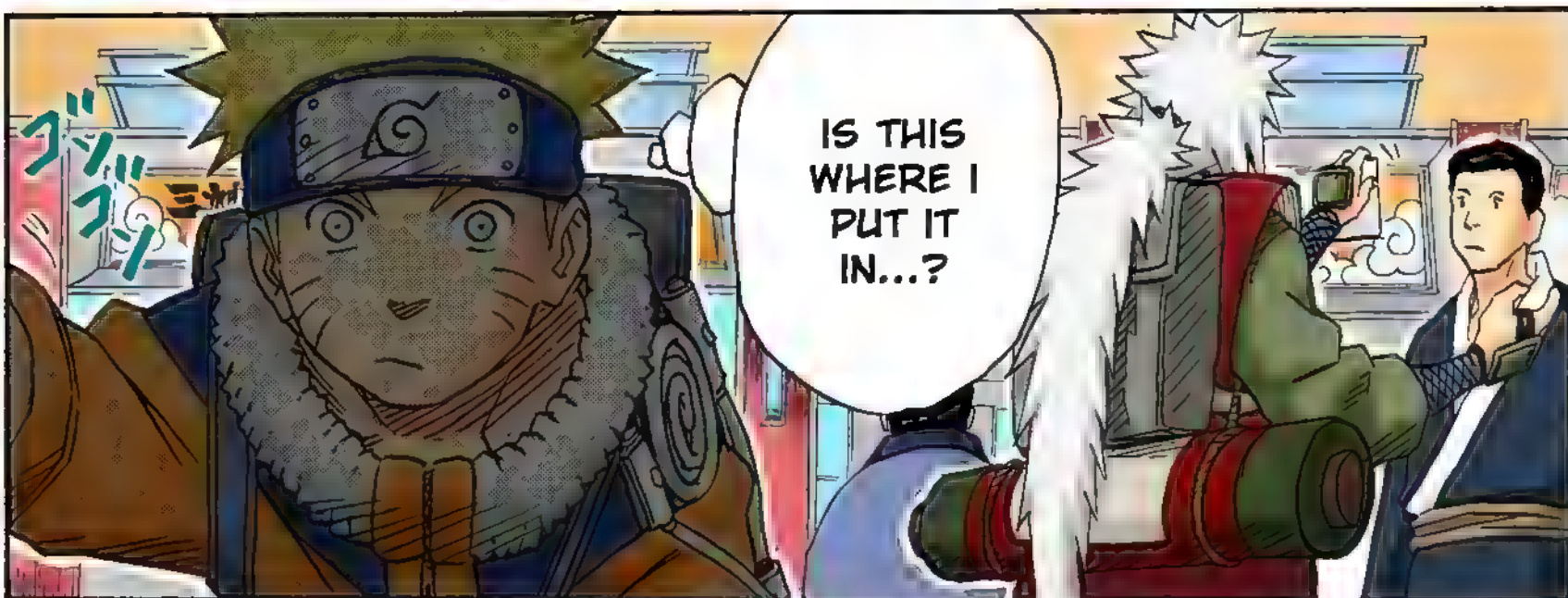
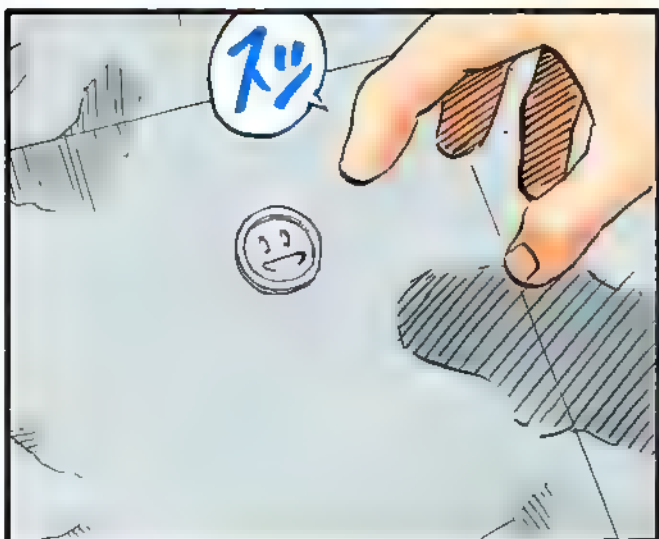
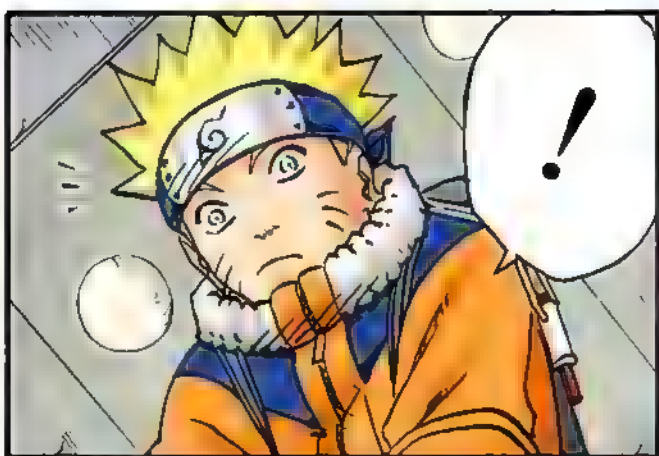
ズッ



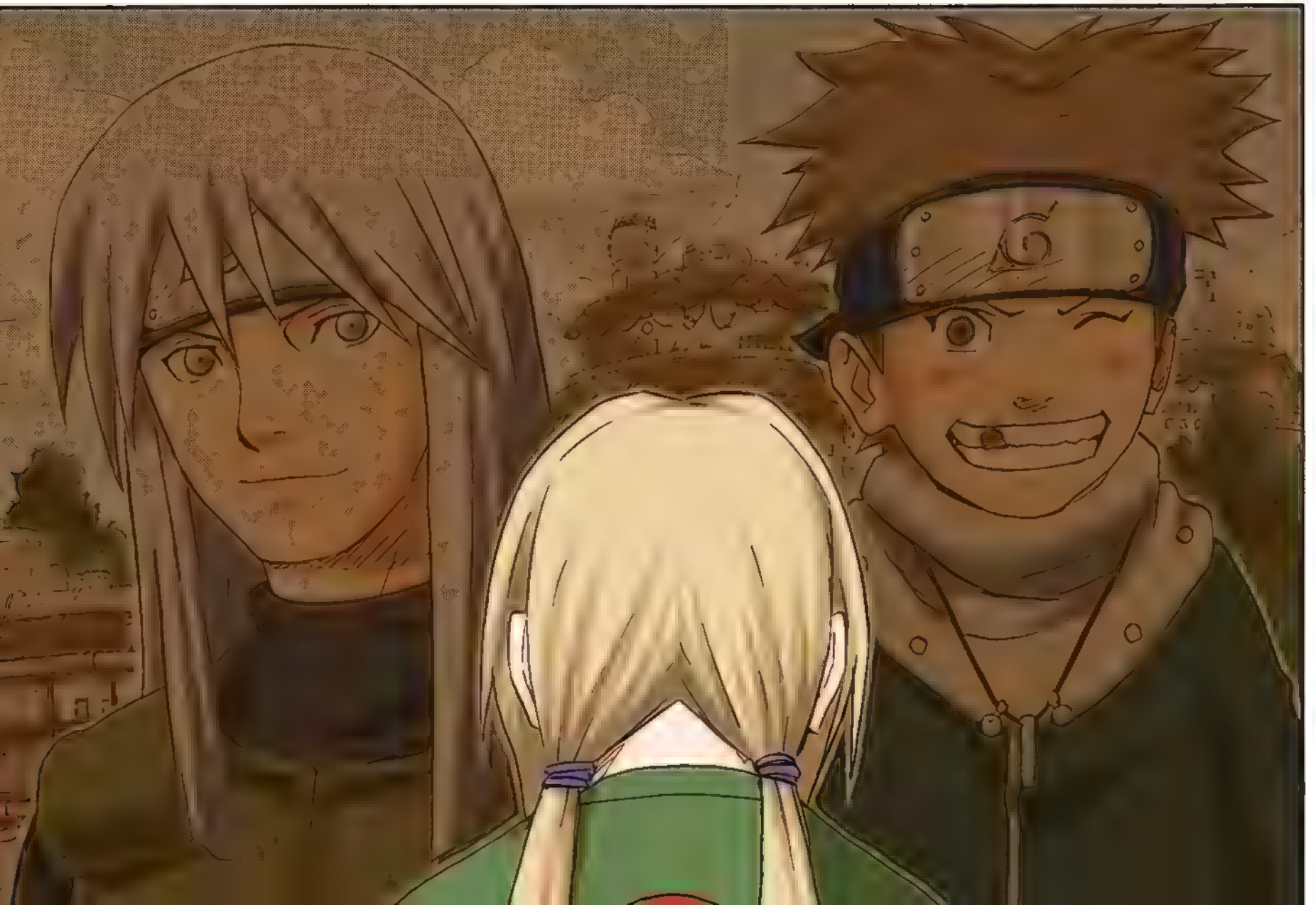
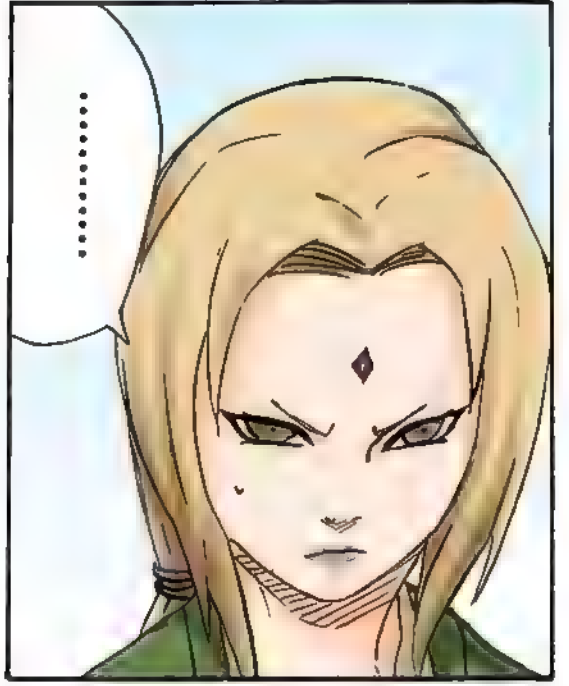
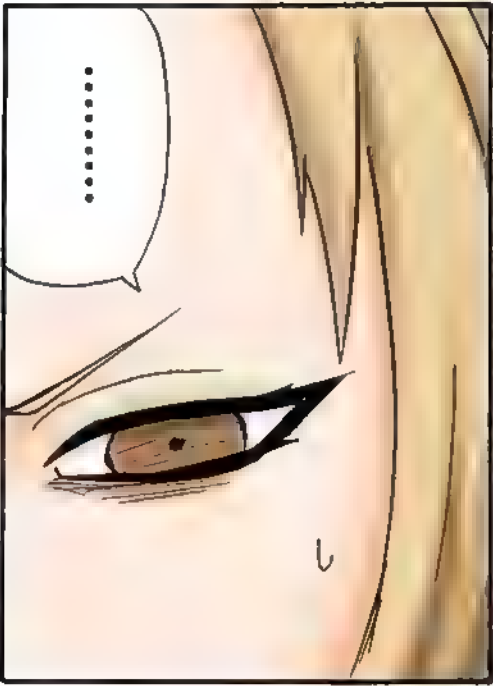
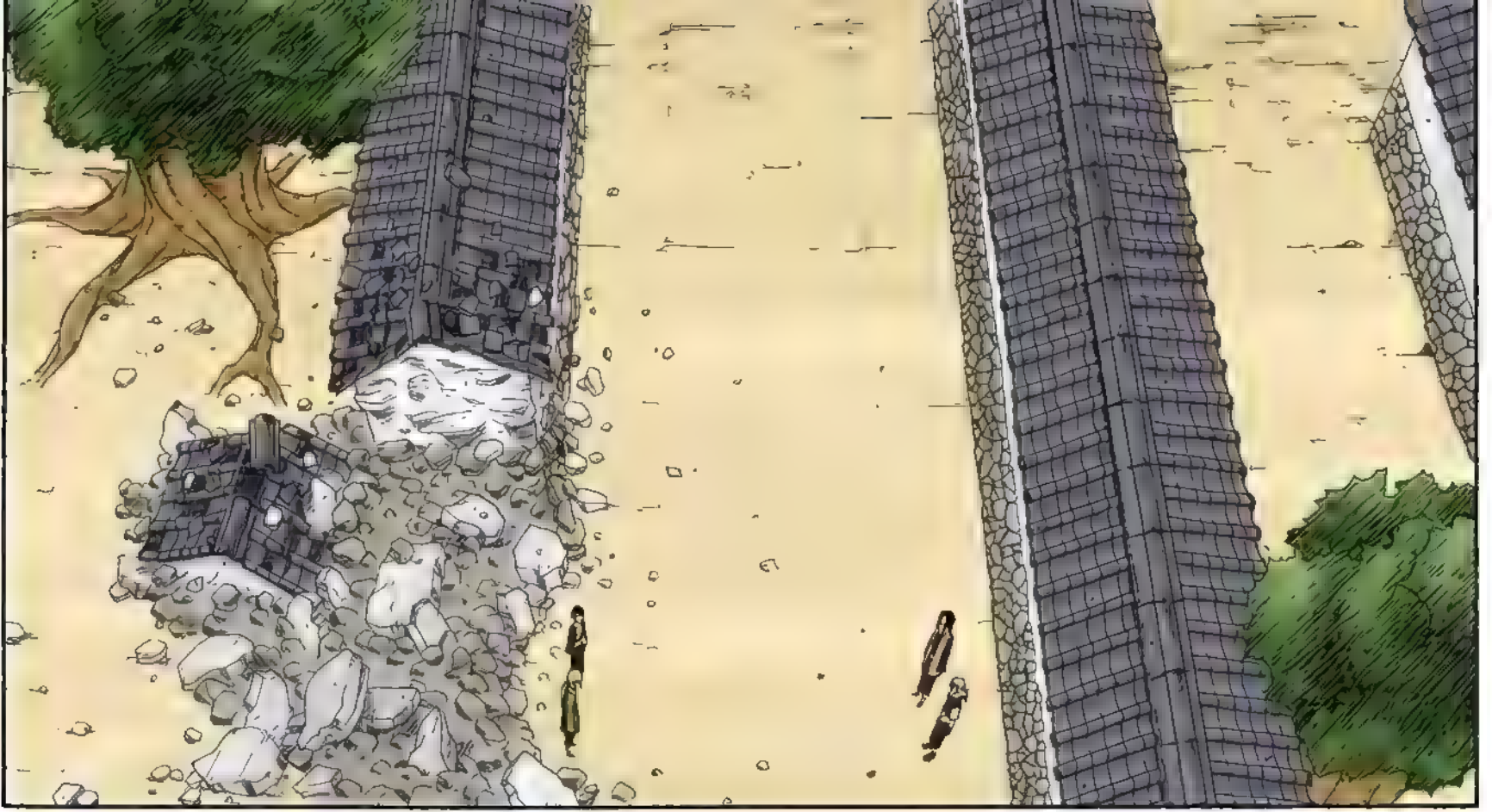
(1,000 RYO IS ROUGHLY 10,000 YEN, OR \$100.)

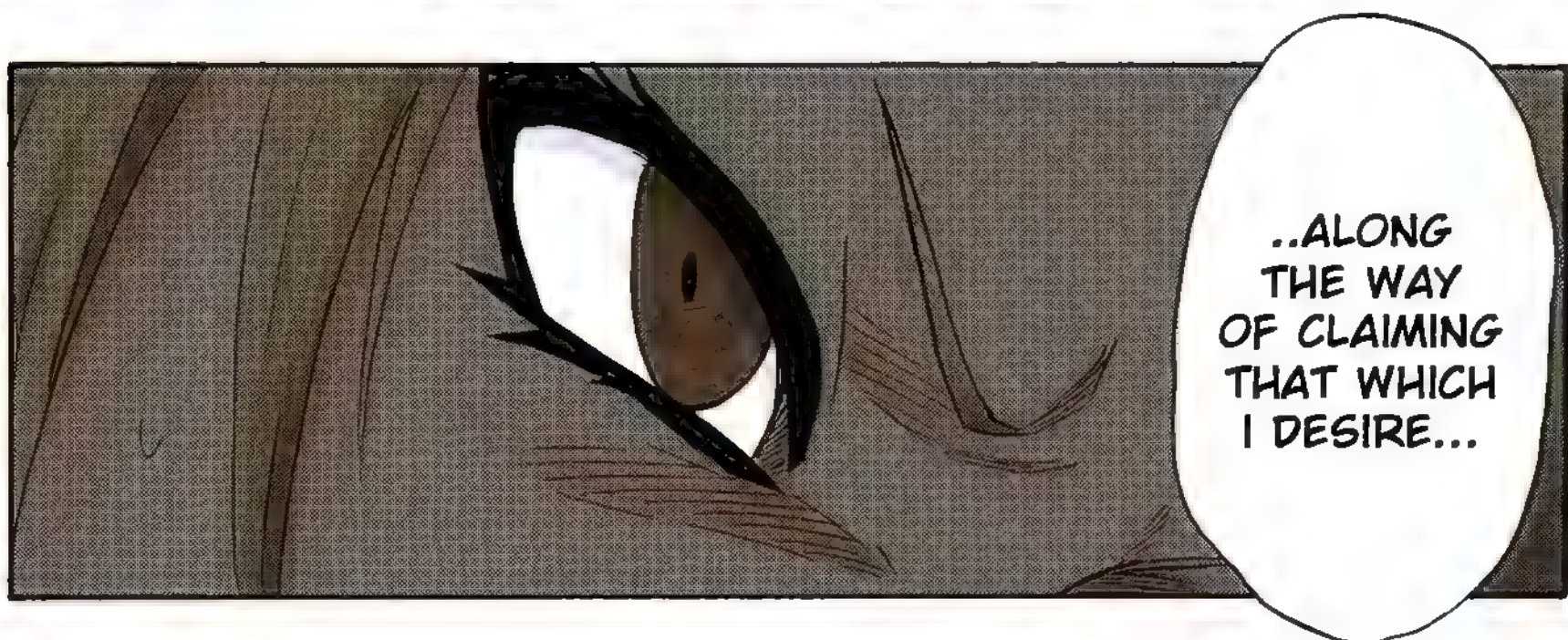
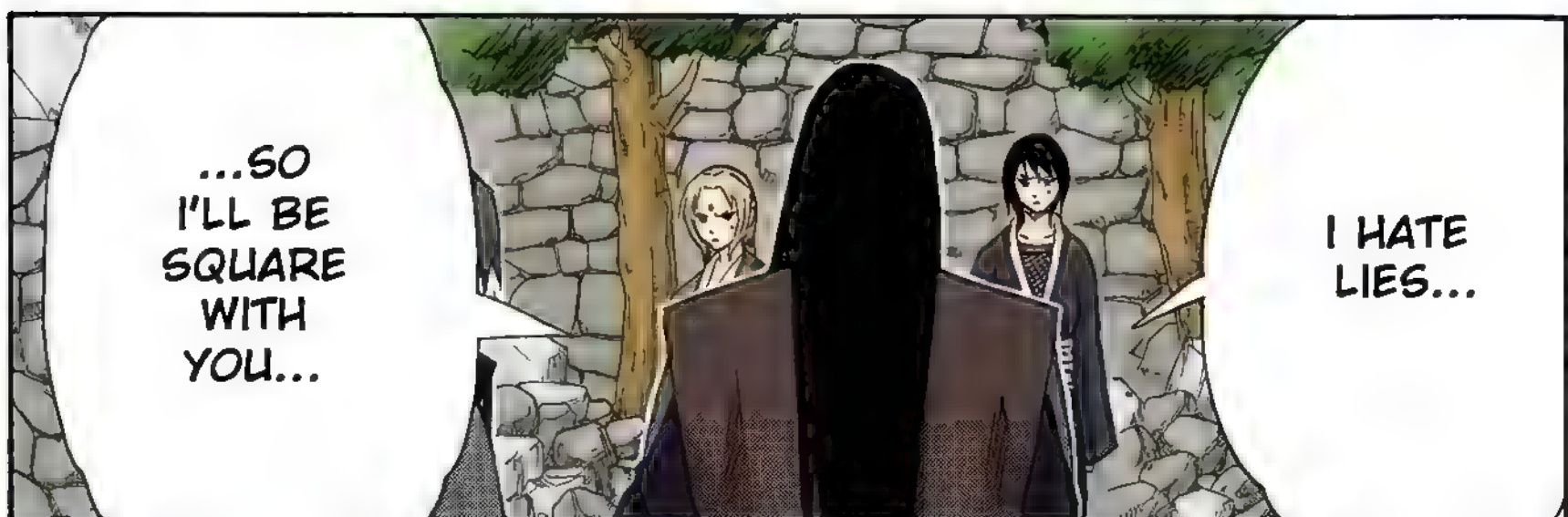
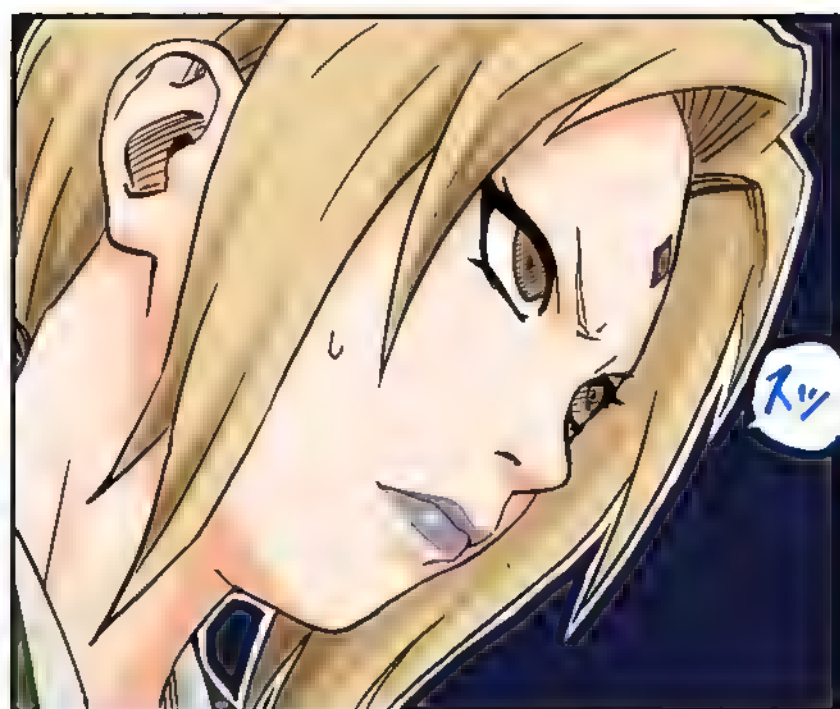
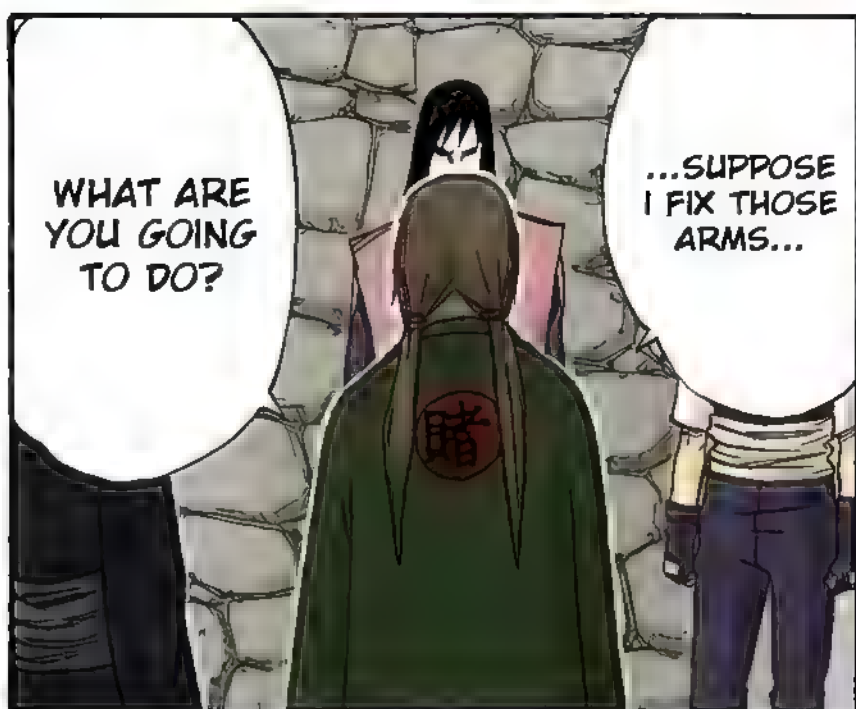
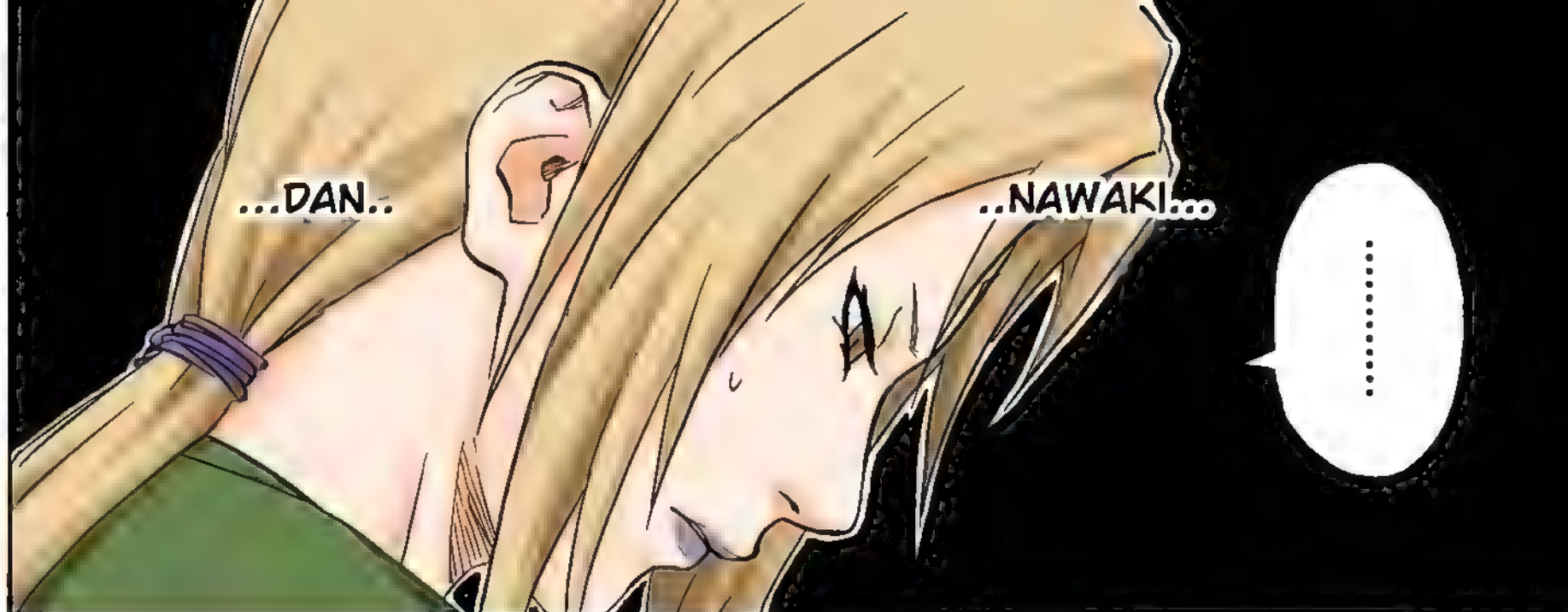














!!?

SO
WHERE'S
THIS
CASTLE?

HEY!
WAIT!

**...THIS TIME I
ANNIHILATE
KONoha
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.**



ナンバー



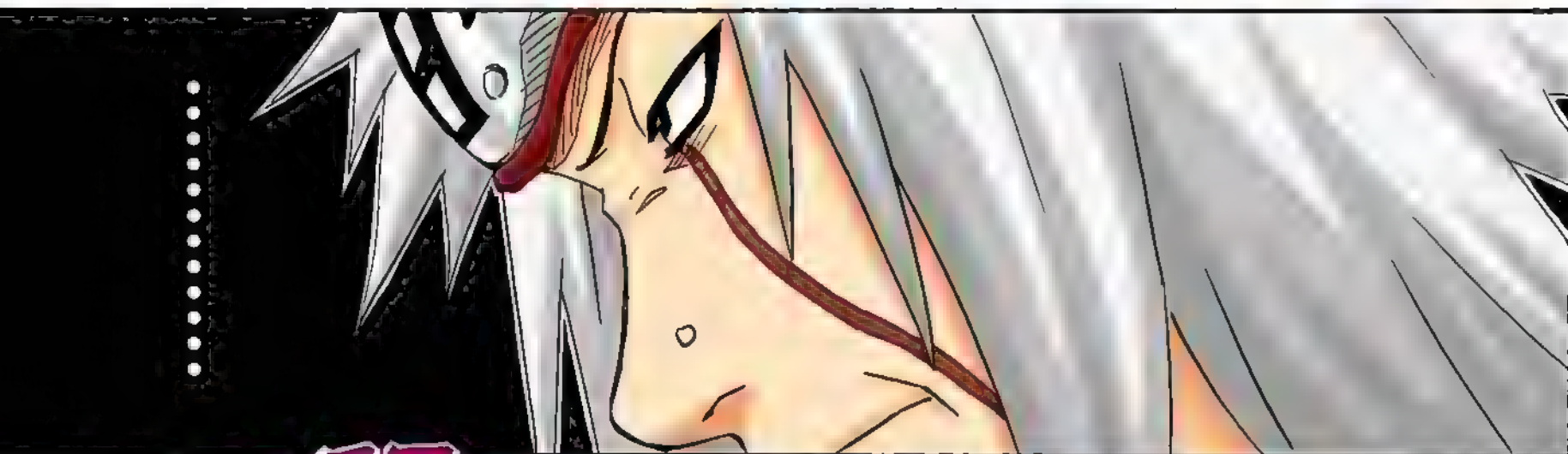
157

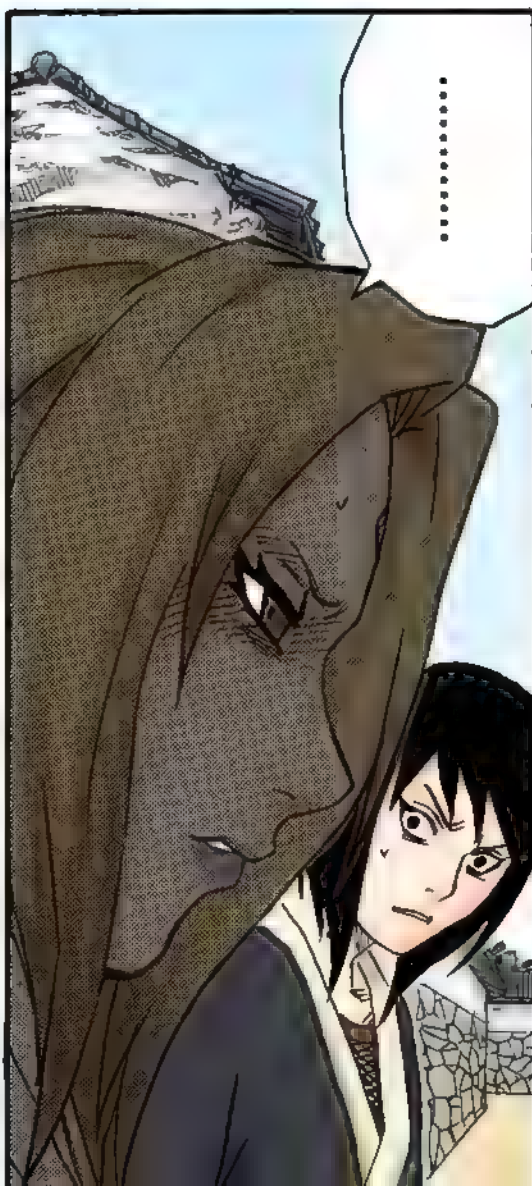


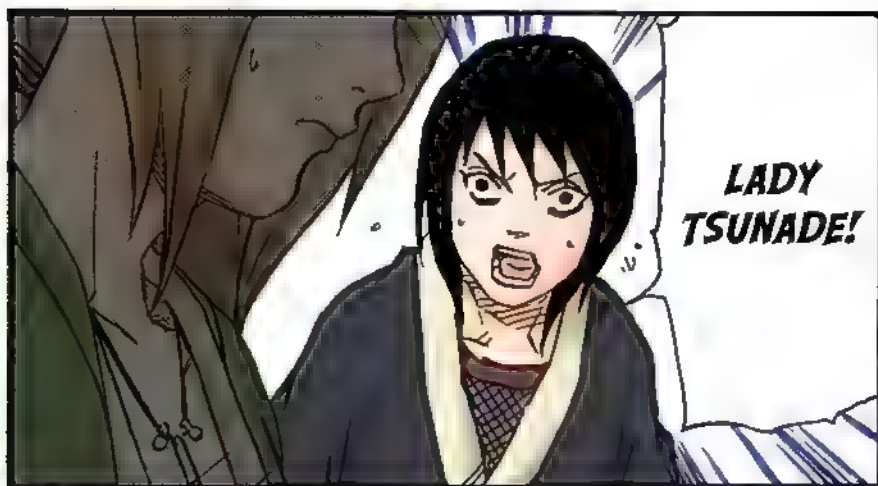
TSUNADE'S ANSWER...?!



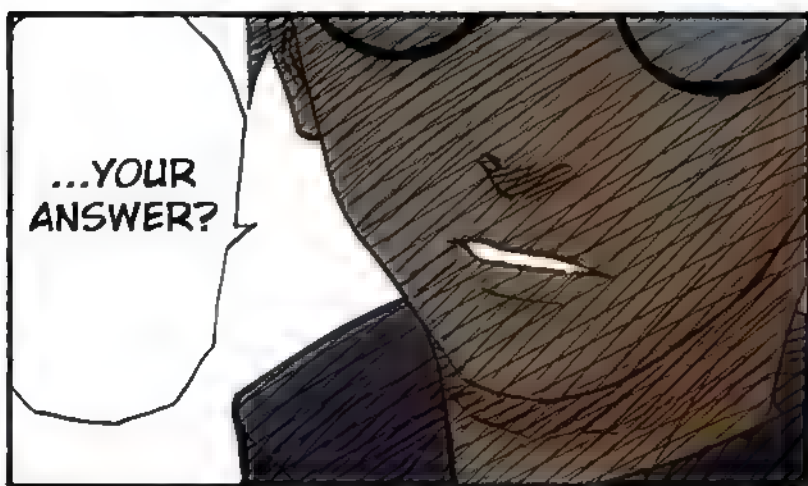








LADY
TSUNADE!



...YOUR
ANSWER?



THAT NO
MATTER
WHAT YOU
SAY, YOU
STILL, DEEP
DOWN...

I KNOW
IT!



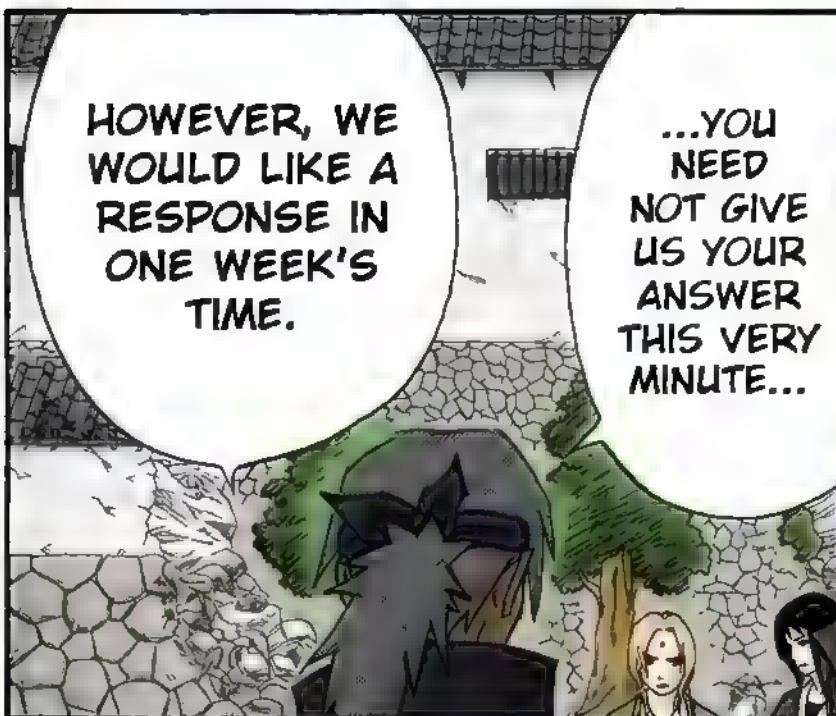
NEITHER
YOUR LITTLE
BROTHER
NOR MY UNCLE
WOULD WANT
THIS!

NO! YOU
MUSTN'T
BE TAKEN IN
BY THEIR
SWEET
TALK...!



...HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
YOUR WISH...
YOUR DREAM,
LADY
TSUNADE!

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THEIR
WISHES...
OR EVEN
MORE SO...





LET'S JUST KILL THEM RIGHT HERE AND NOW! OROCHIMARU'S WEAKENED!

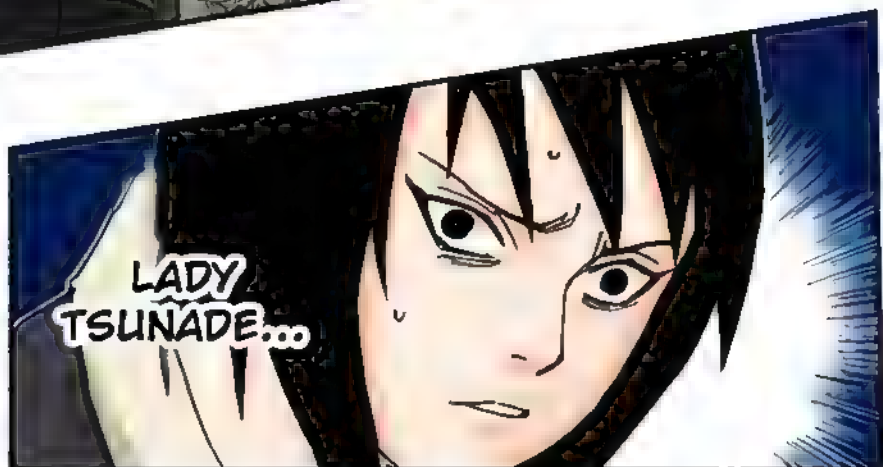
LADY TSUNADE !!

IT'S OUR BEST CHANCE! LADY TSUNADE... TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE THEM ON...!

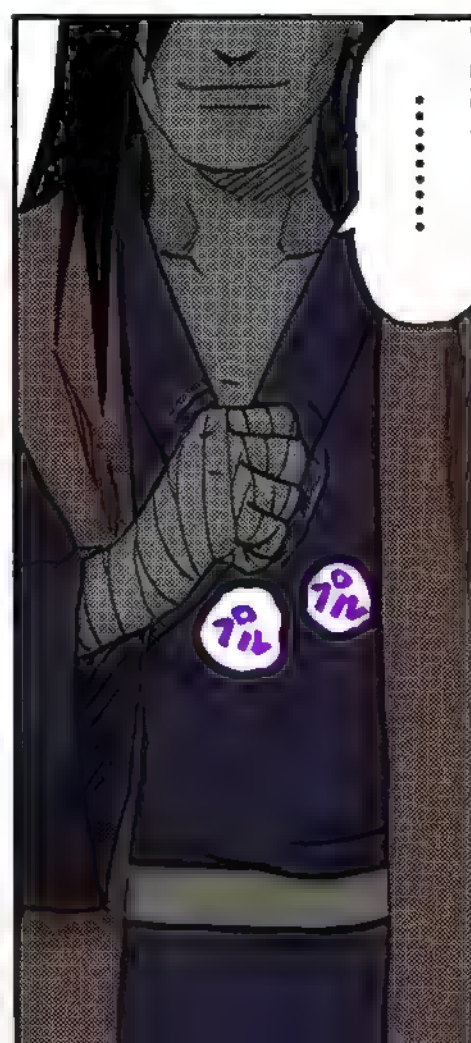
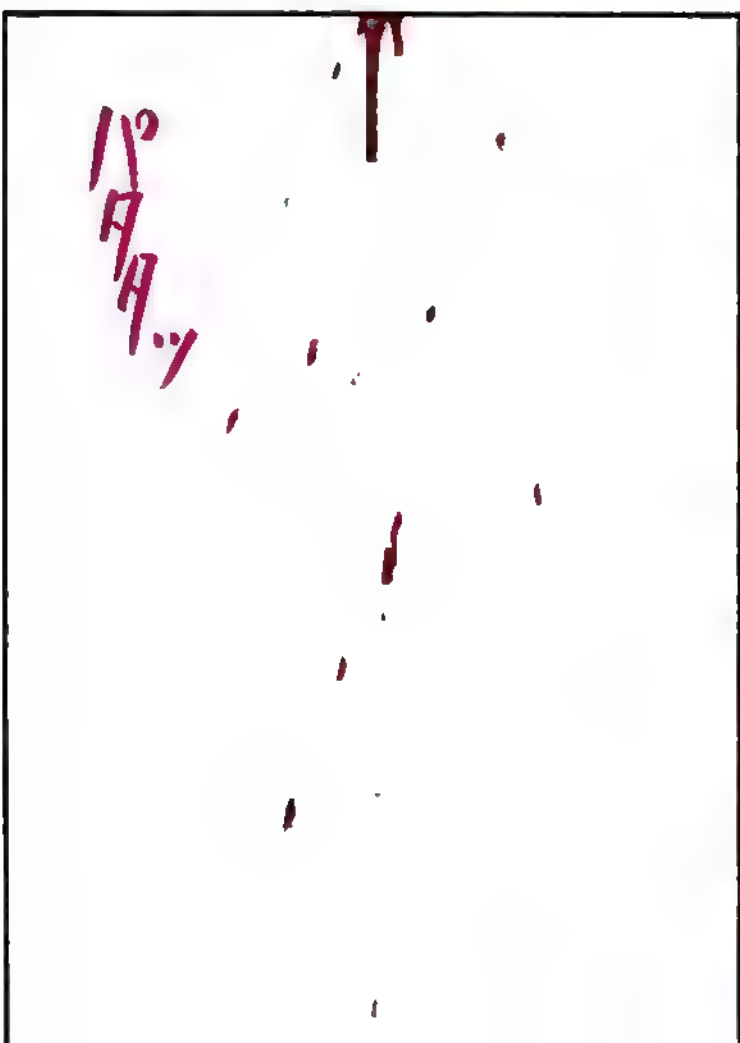
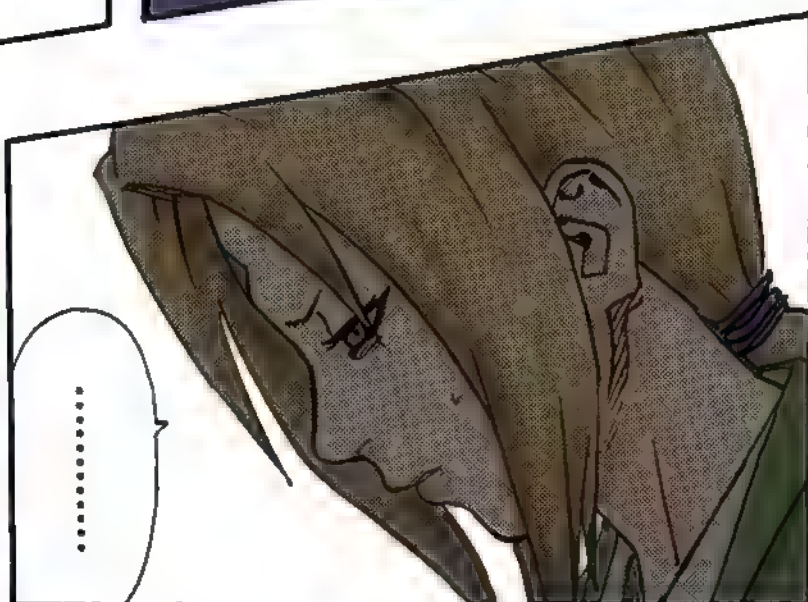


SO PLEASE HAVE TWO PEOPLE PREPARED ON YOUR END...

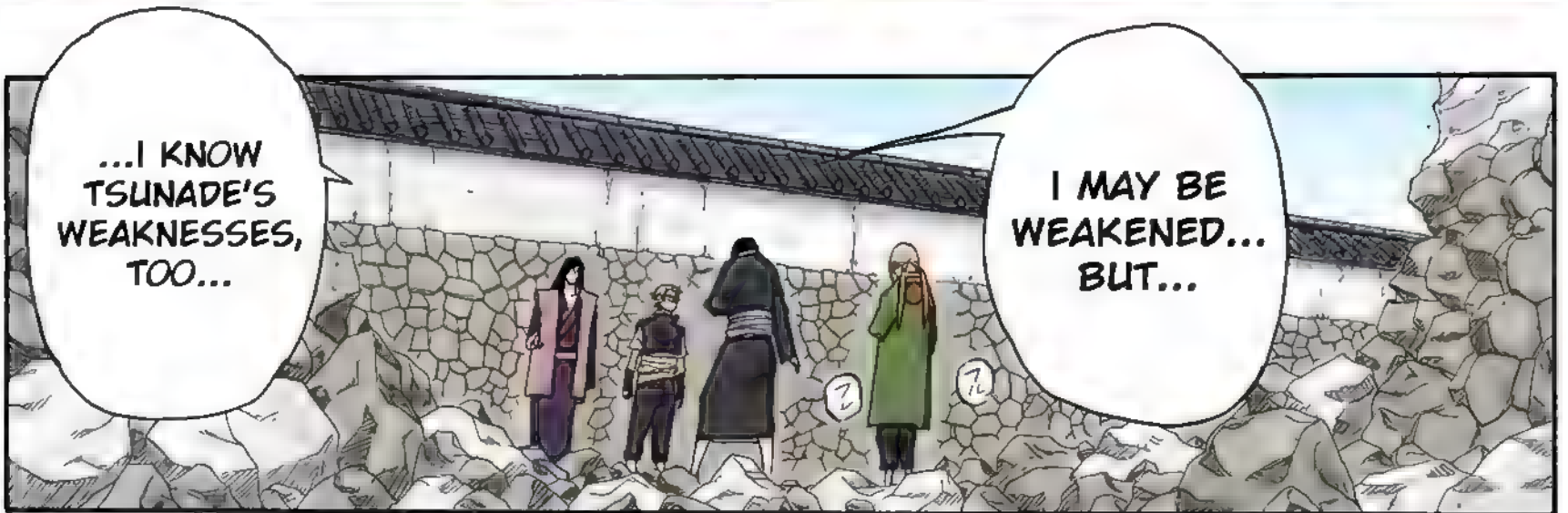
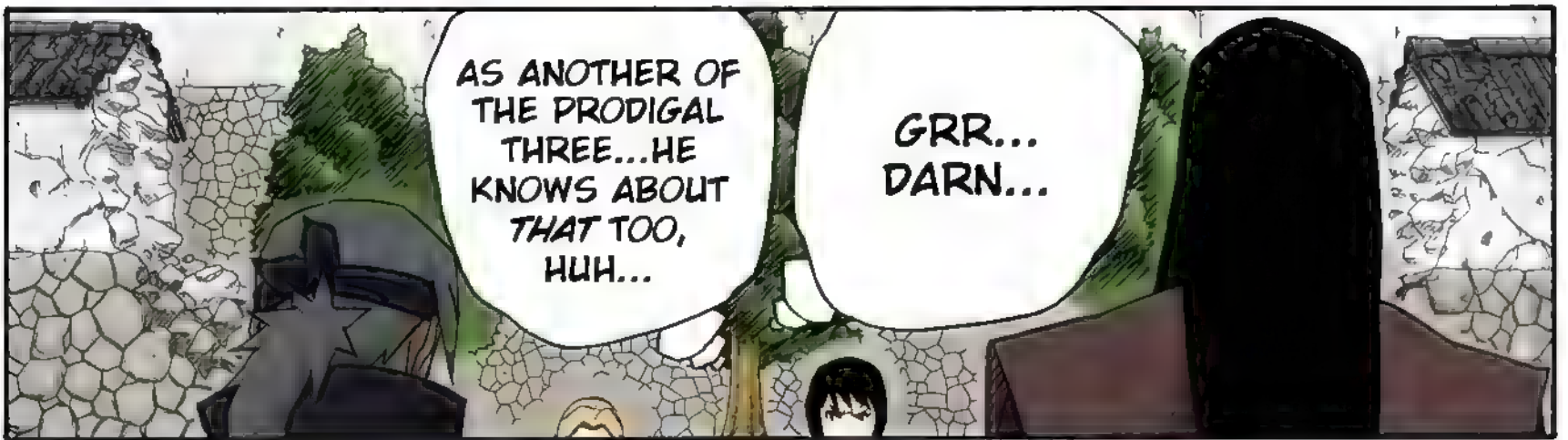
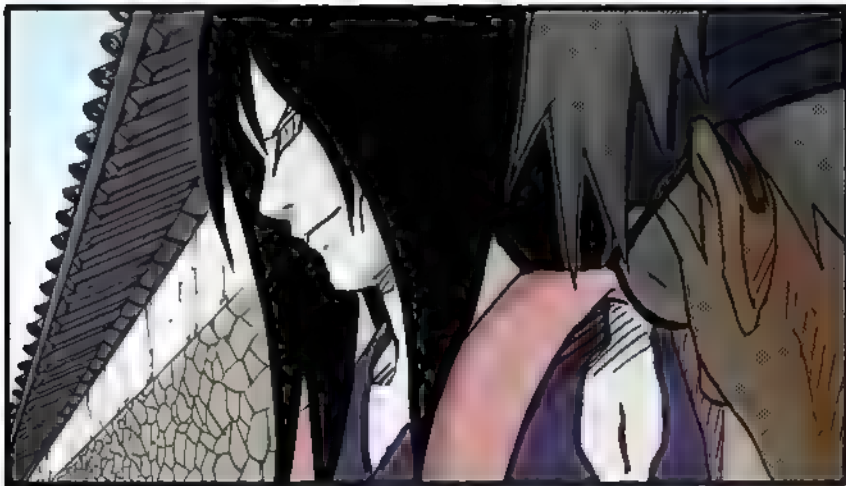
...OH AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, THIS FORBIDDEN JUTSU REQUIRES LIVE SACRIFICES...

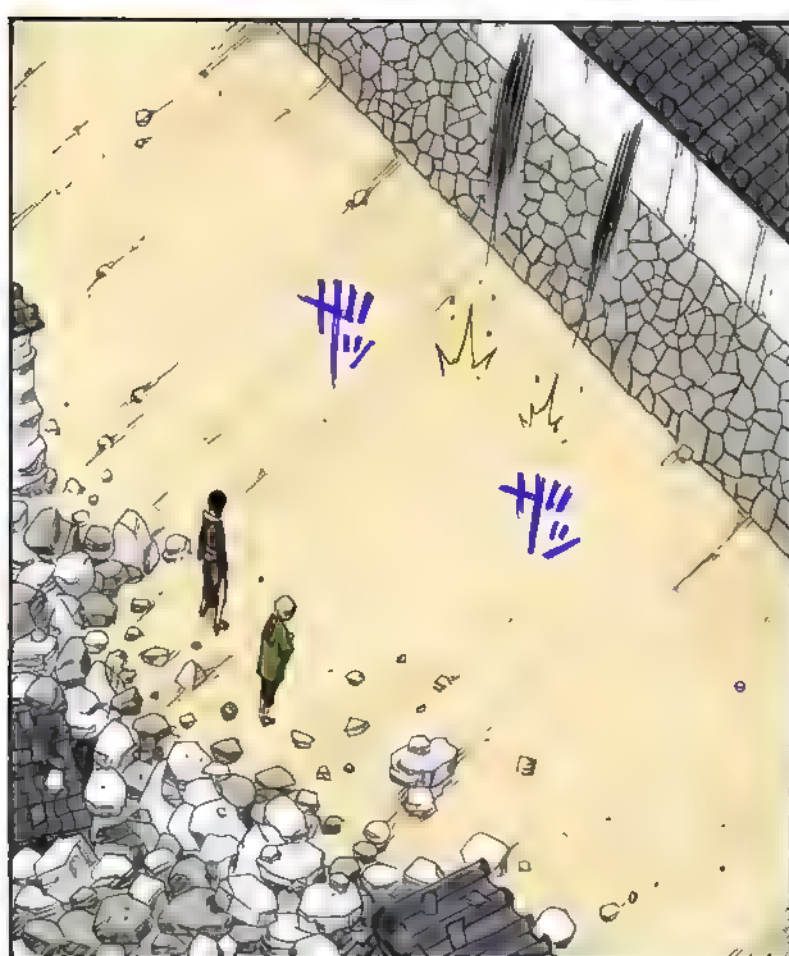
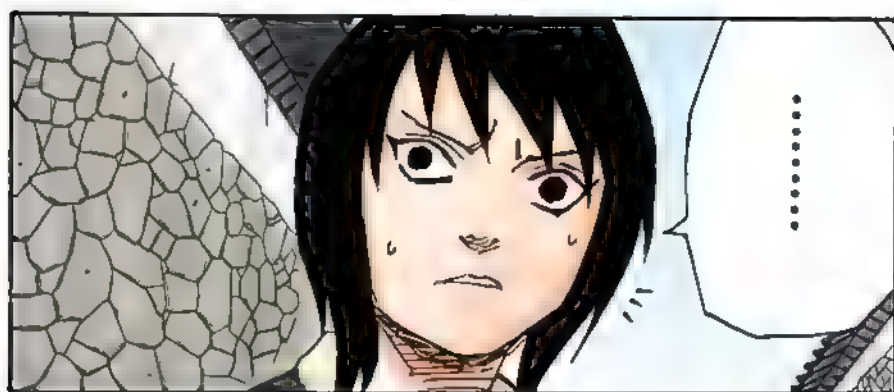
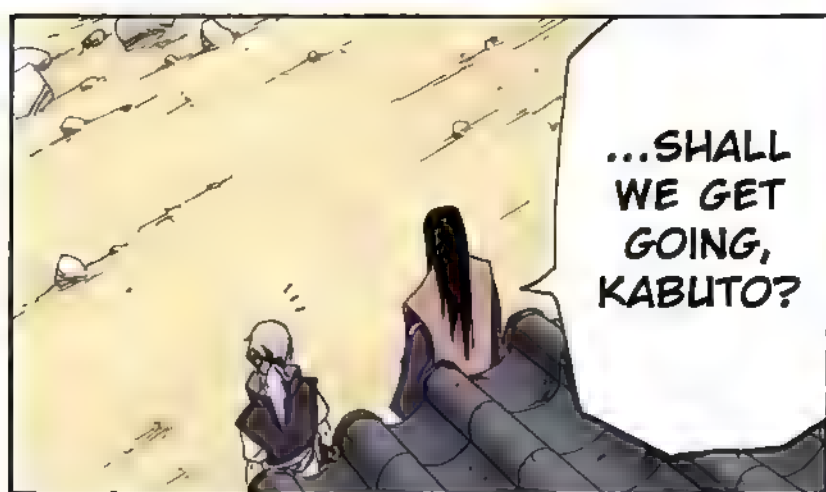
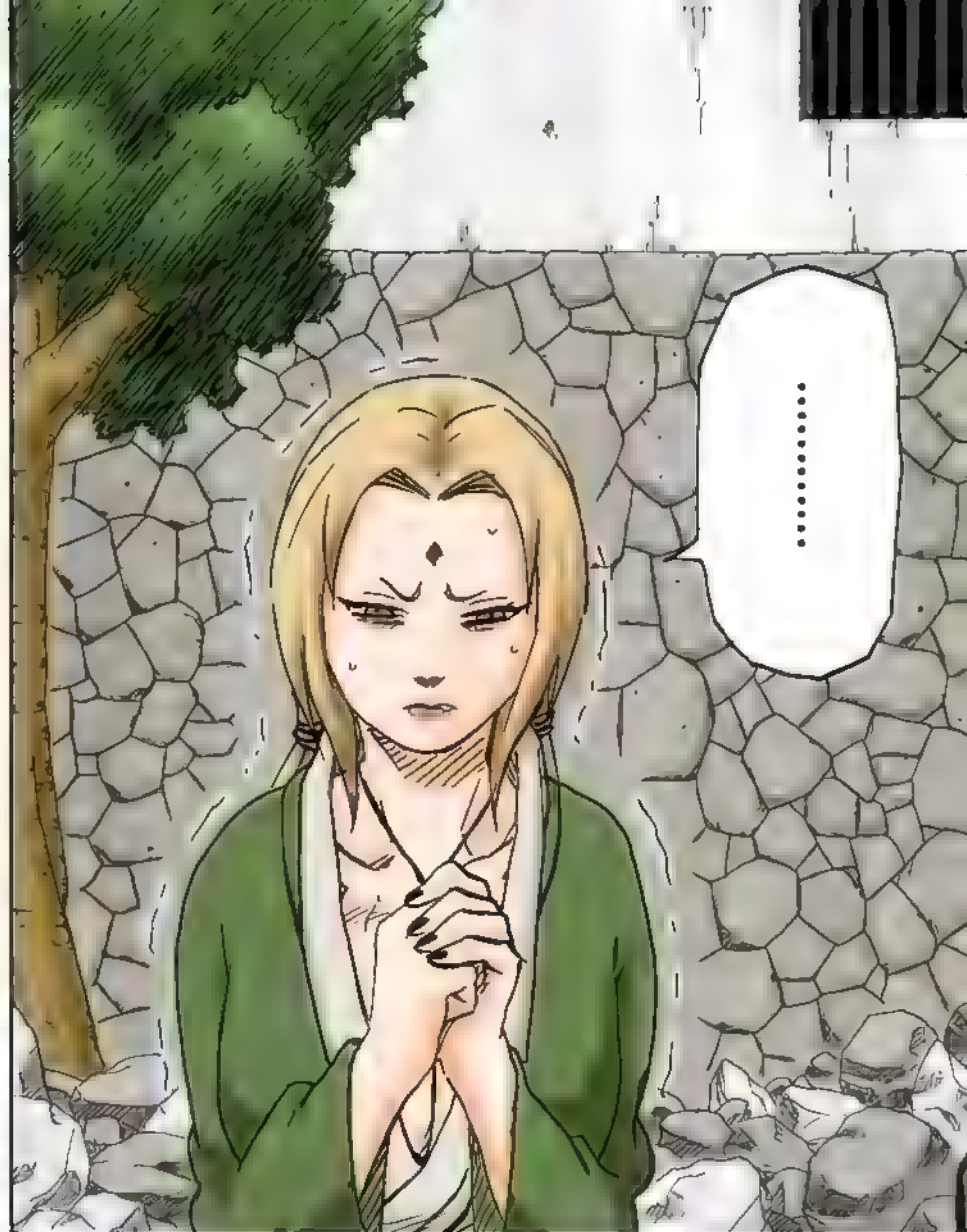


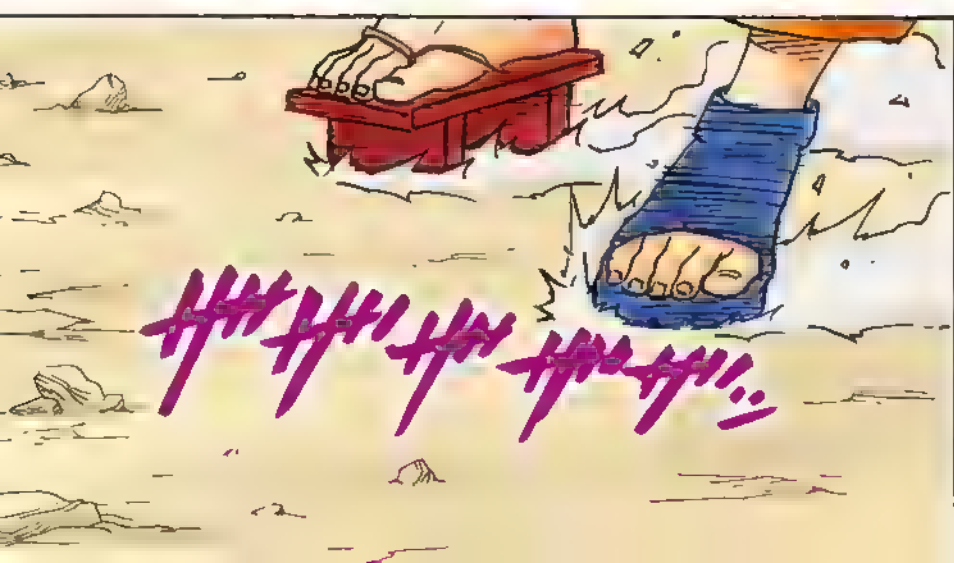
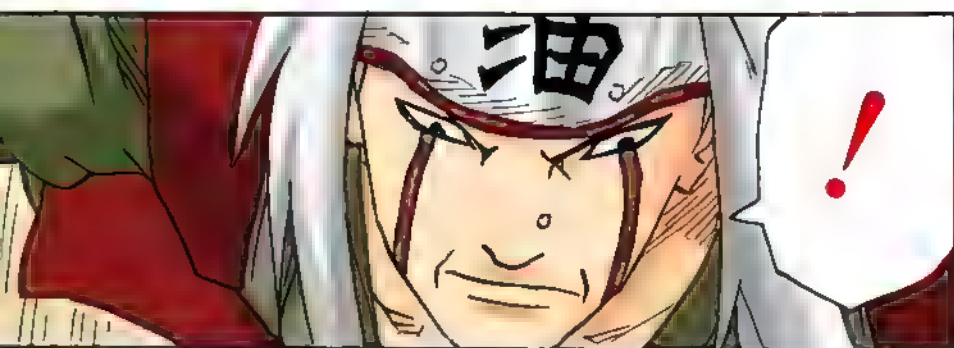
LADY TSUNADE...

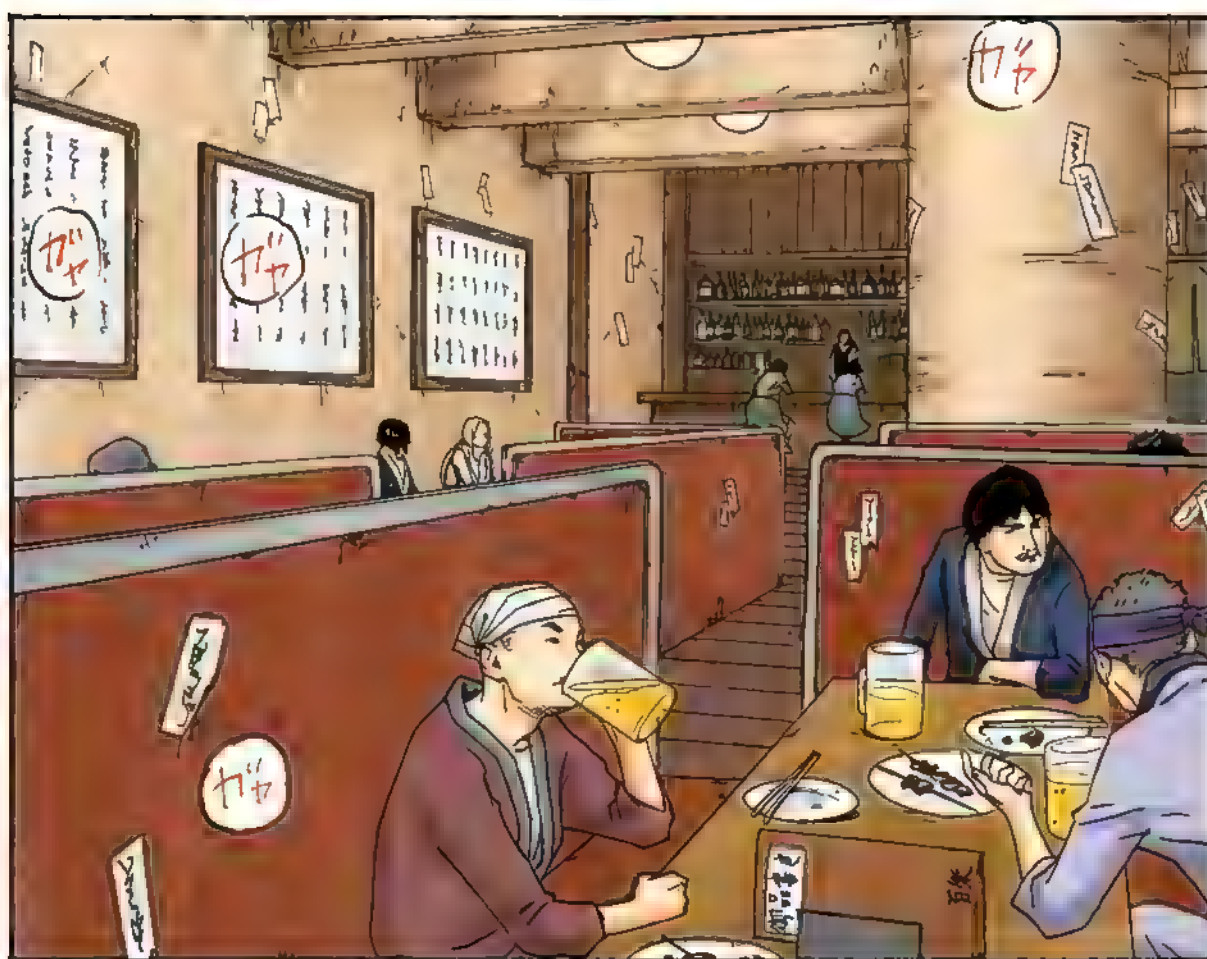
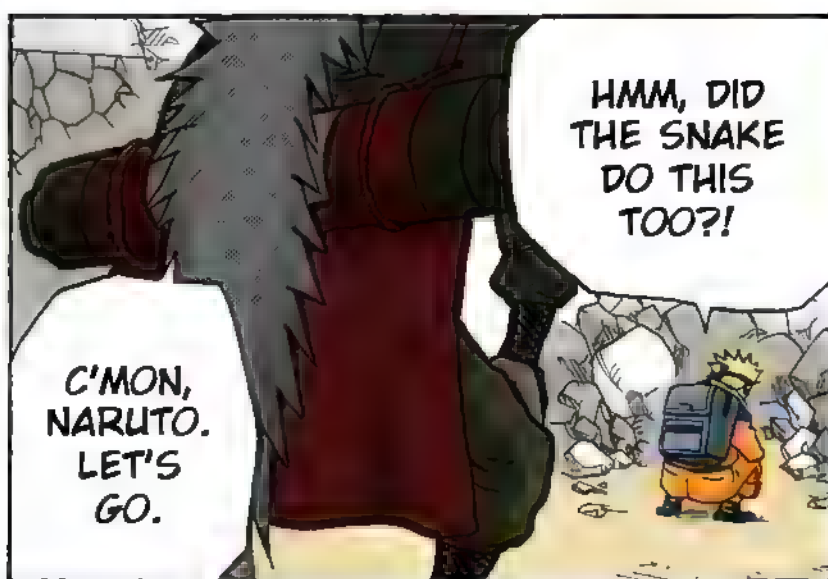
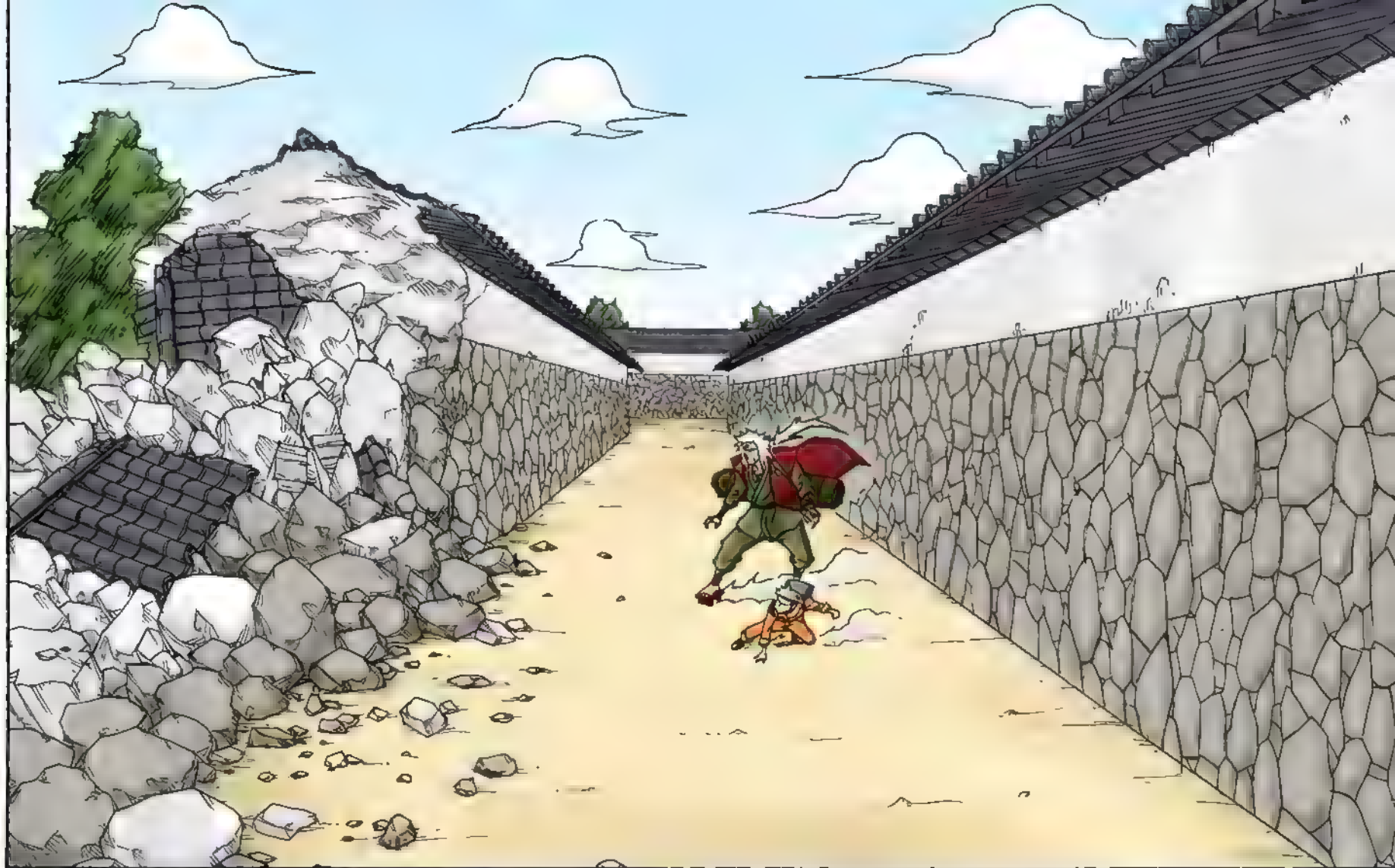


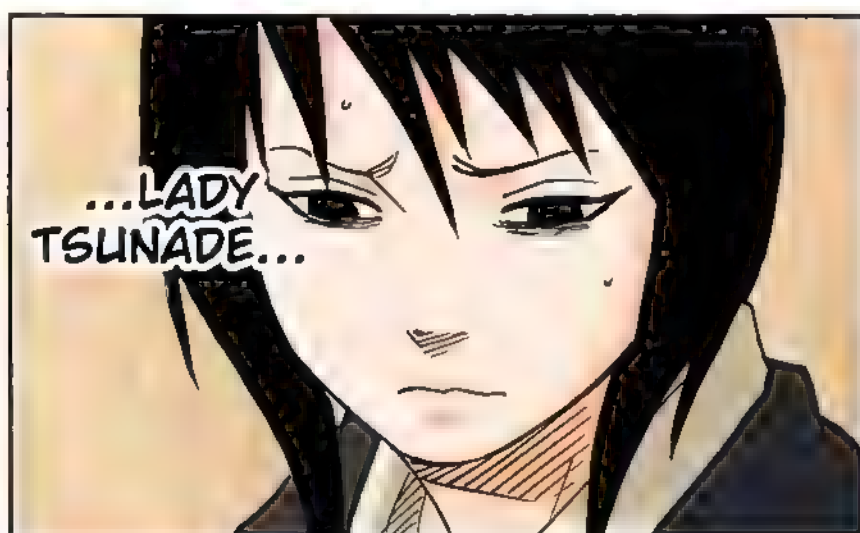
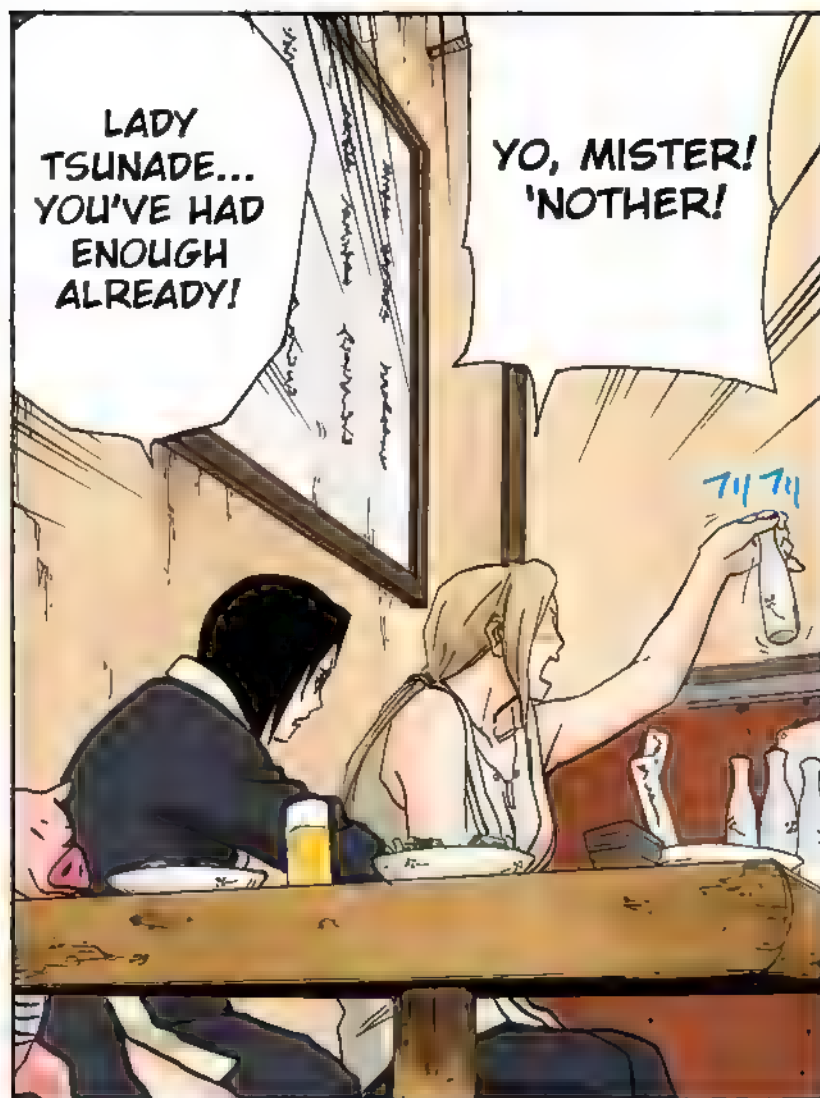
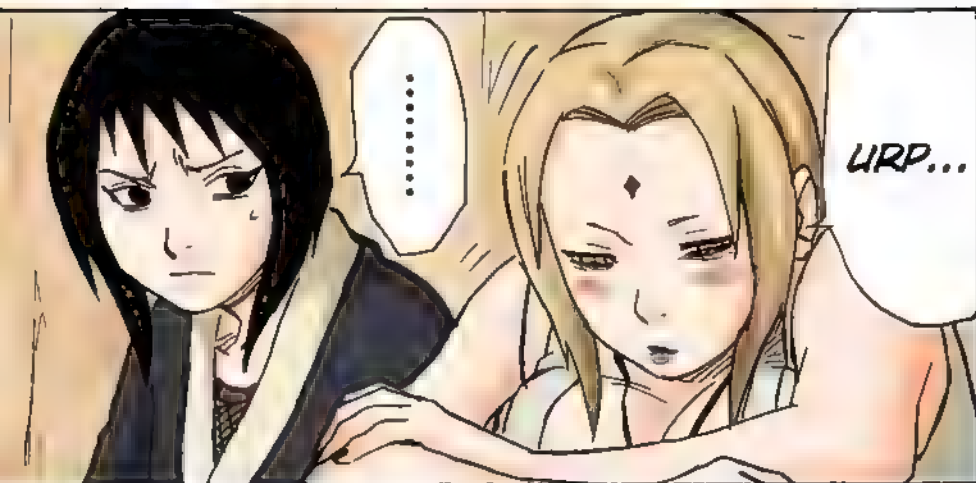


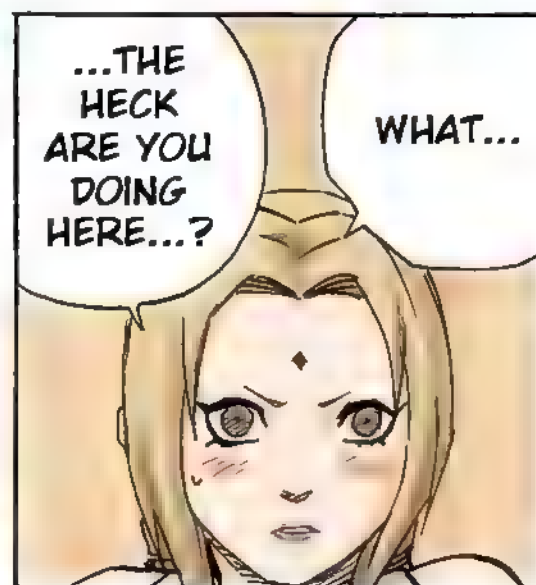
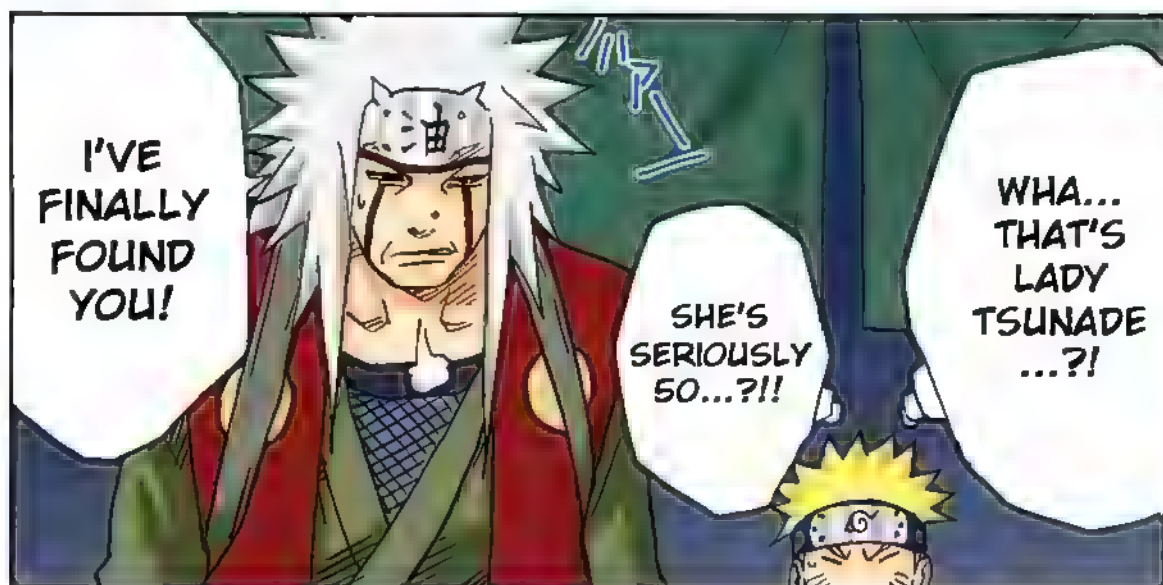


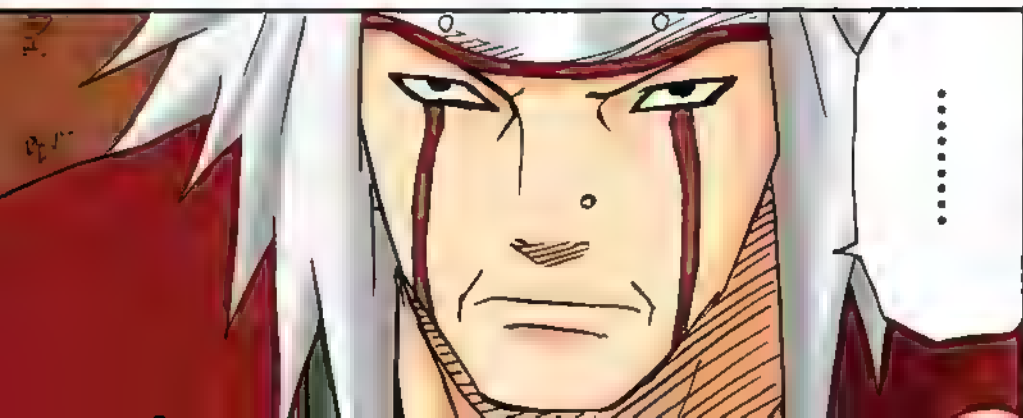
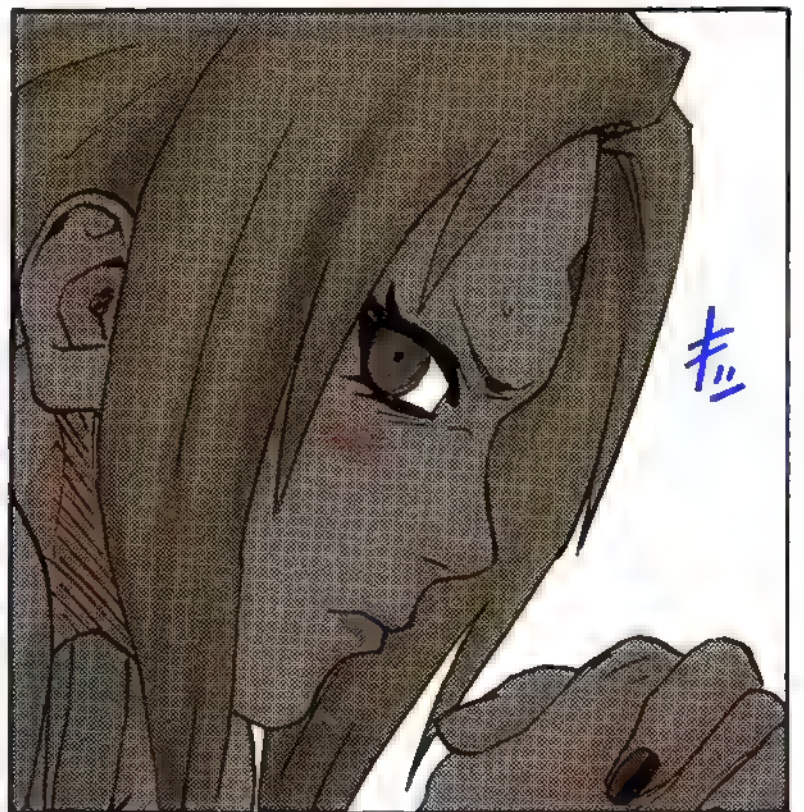
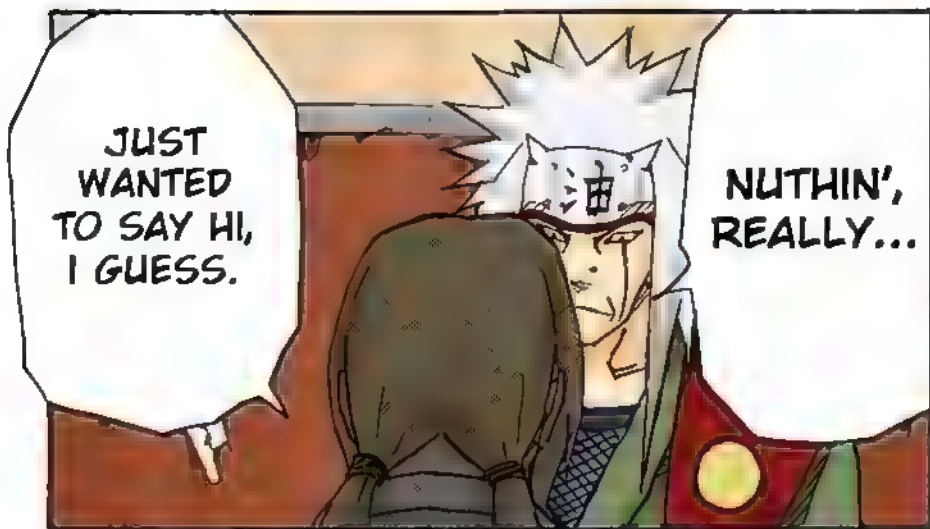
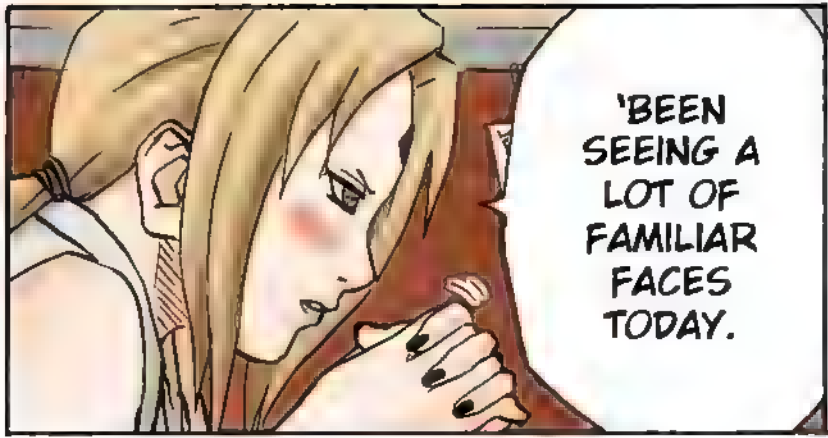


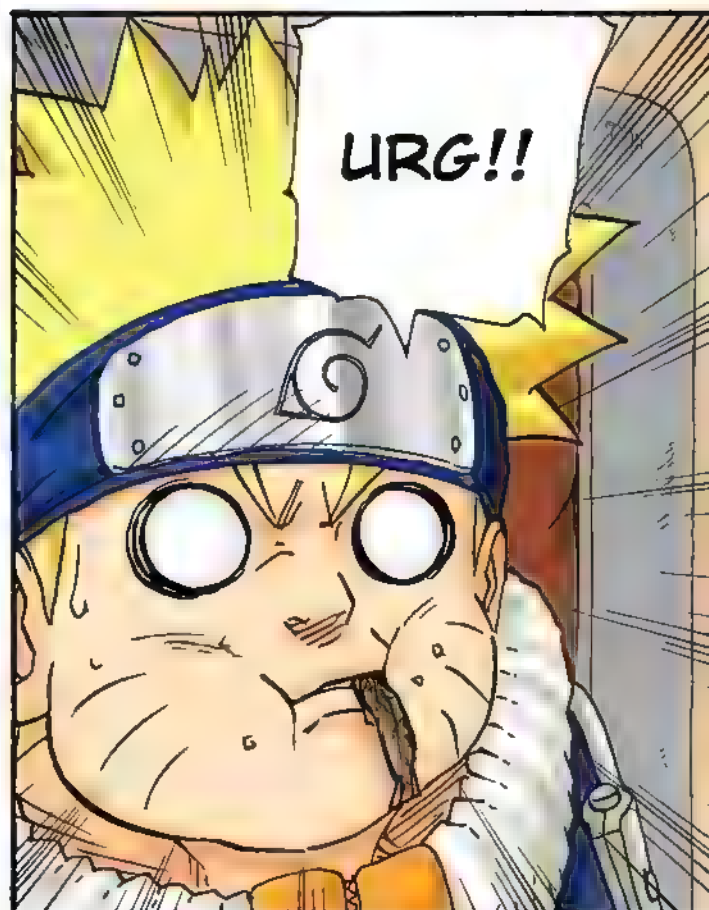
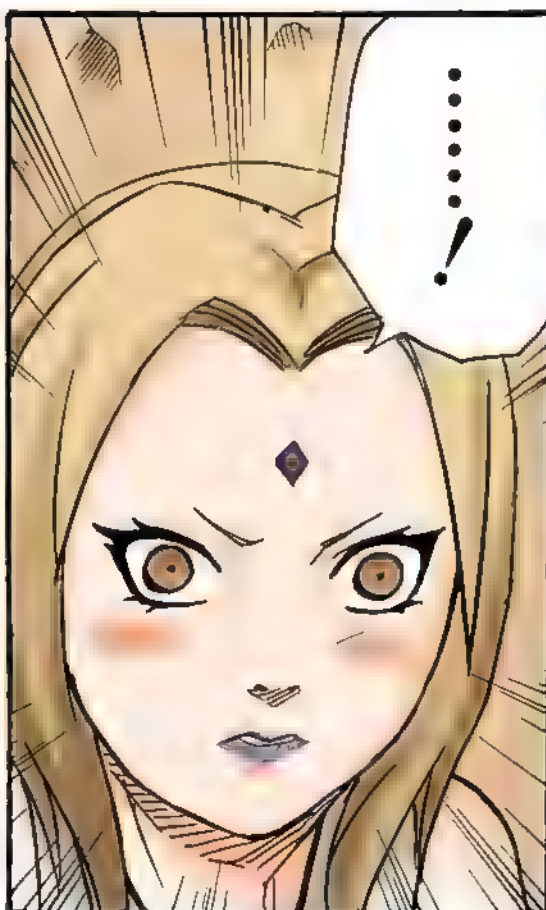
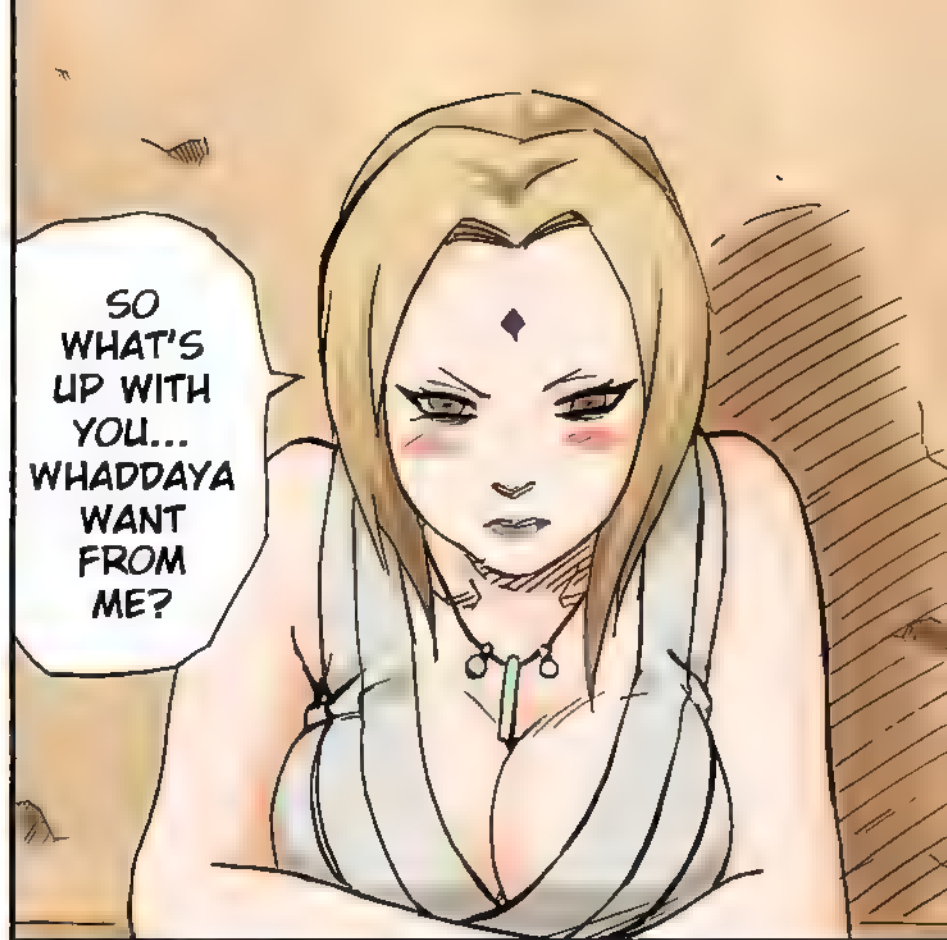


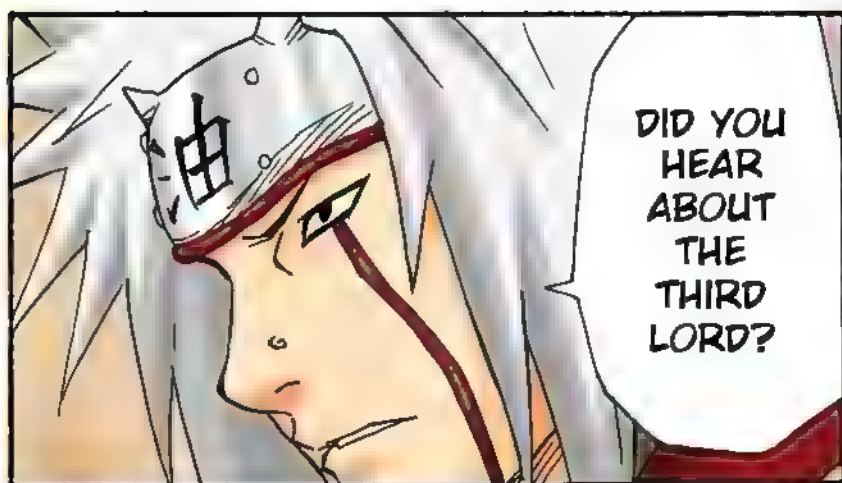




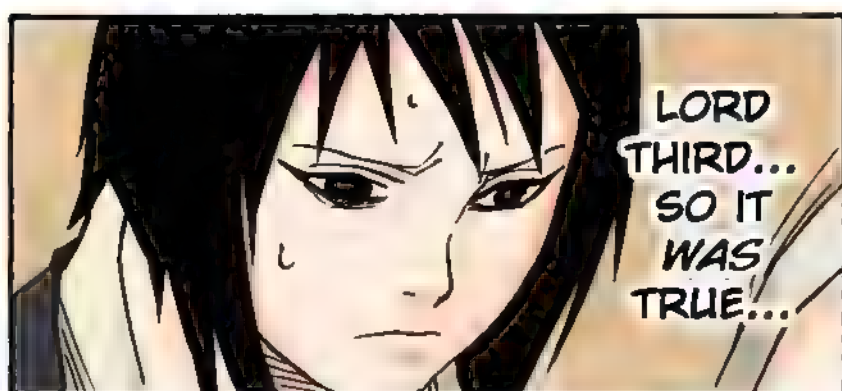








DID YOU
HEAR
ABOUT
THE
THIRD
LORD?



LORD
THIRD...
SO IT
WAS
TRUE...



F...FIFTH
HOKAGE?!!

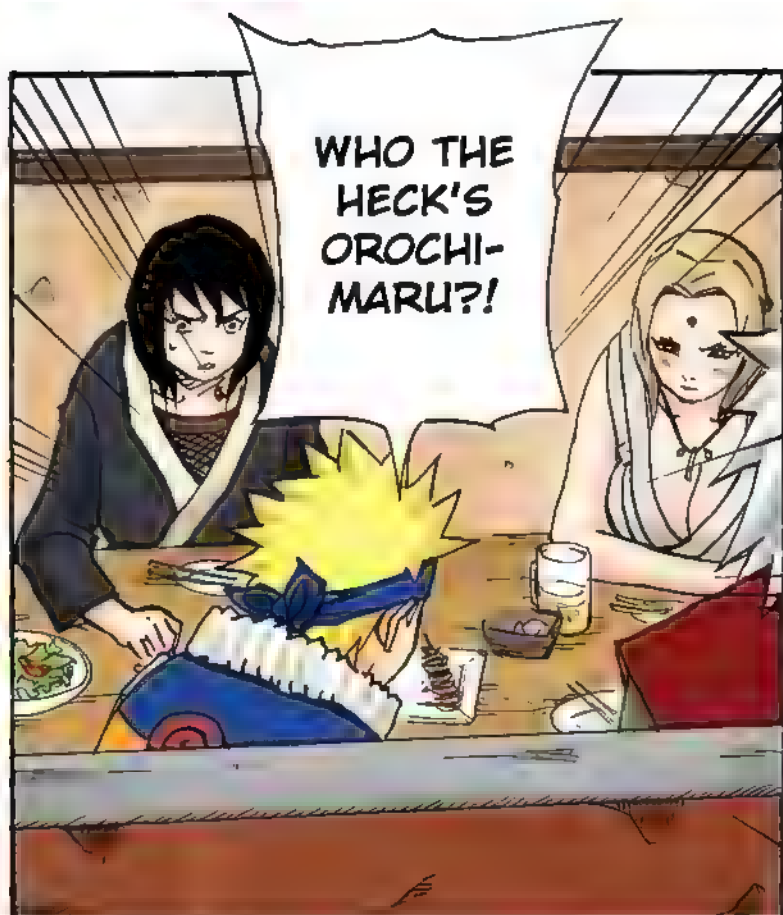
**HACK!
GUGH!**

....!
WHERE THE
HECK DID
THAT COME
FROM?!!
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!



OROCHIMARU
DID HIM IN,
RIGHT...?

I HEARD,
STRAIGHT FROM
THE SNAKE'S
MOUTH, AS IT
WERE...



WHO THE
HECK'S
OROCHI-
MARU?!



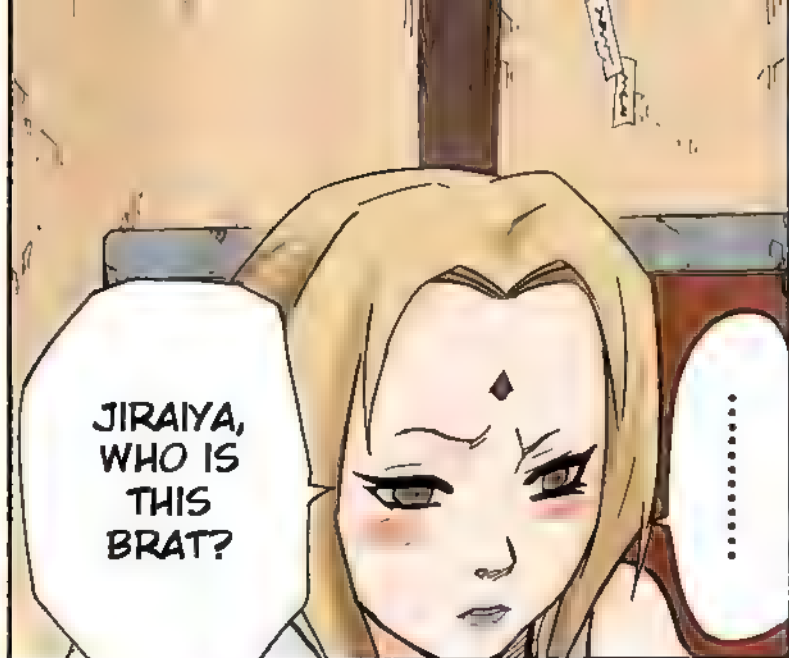
HE
KILLED
THE
THIRD
HOKAGE
?!

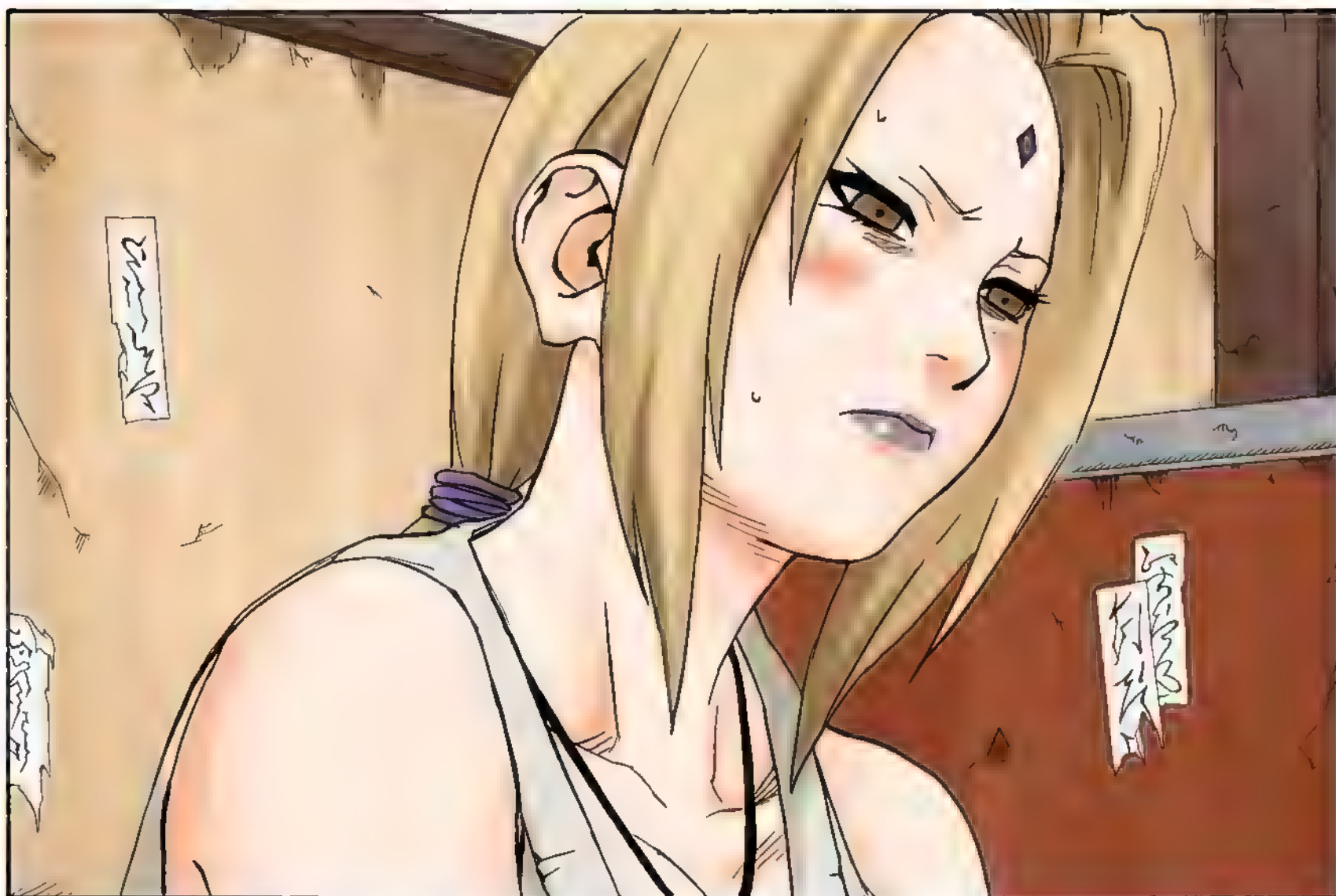
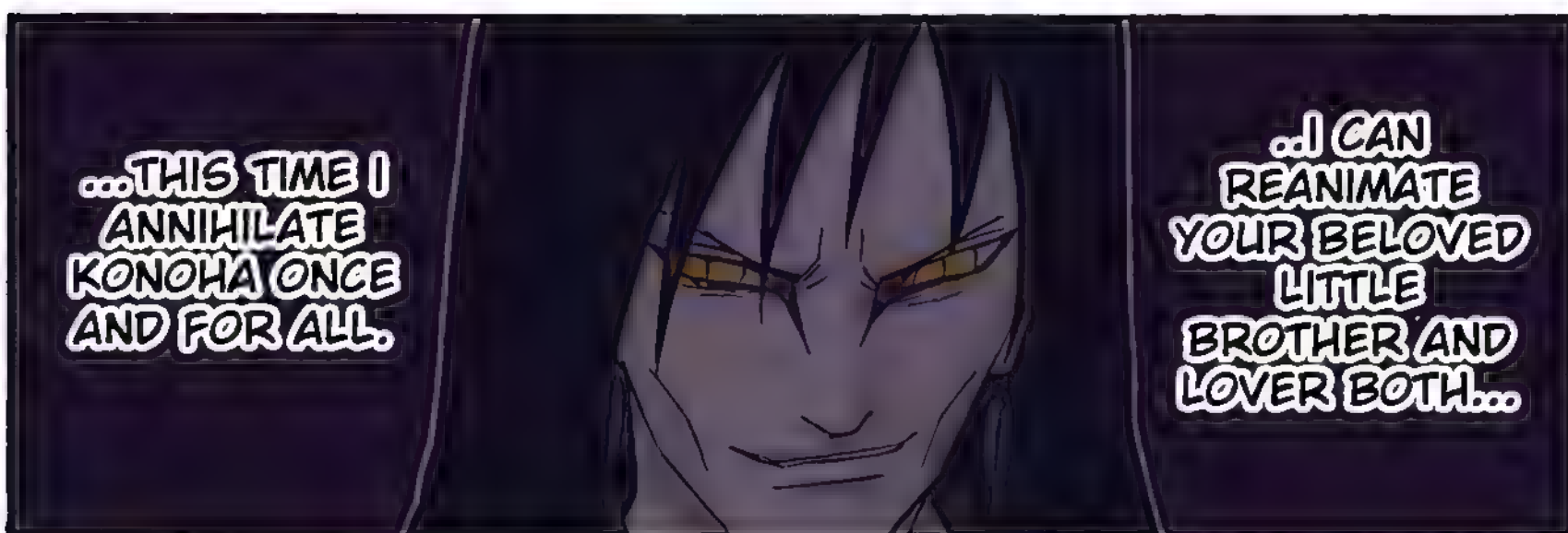
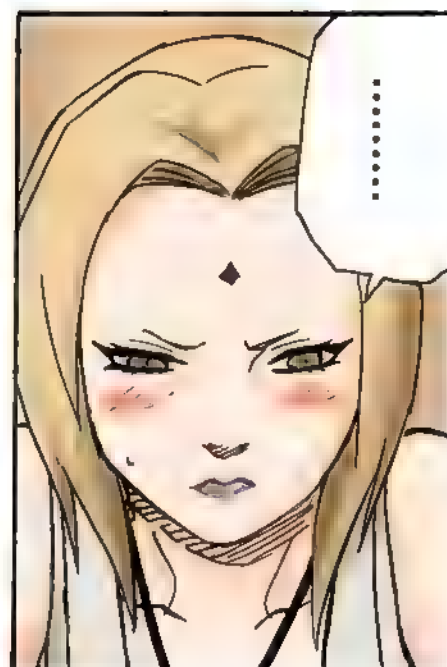
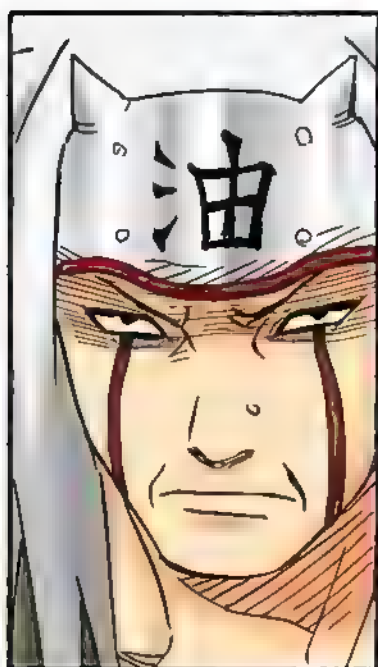
OROCHI-
MARU...?!

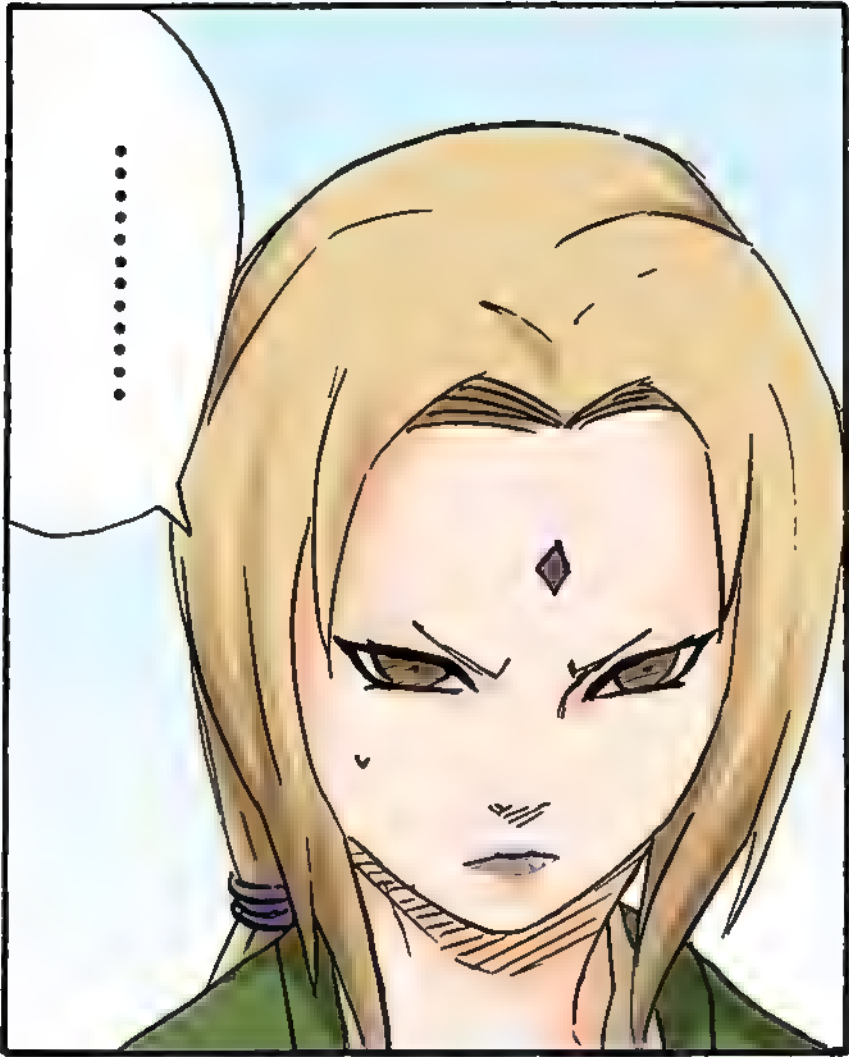


...OROCHI-
MARU
DID IT...?

...?!!



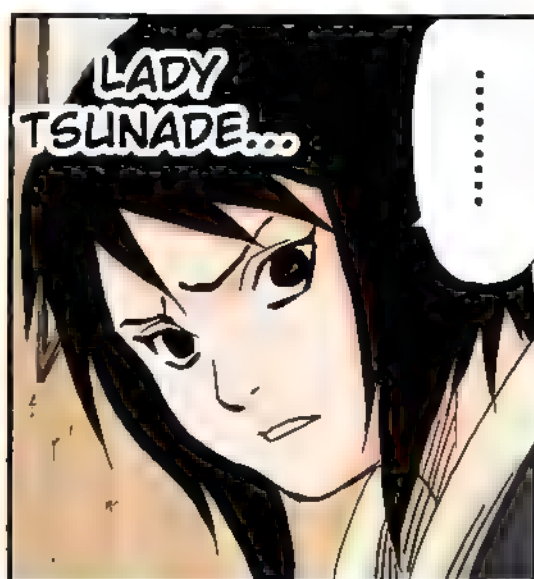
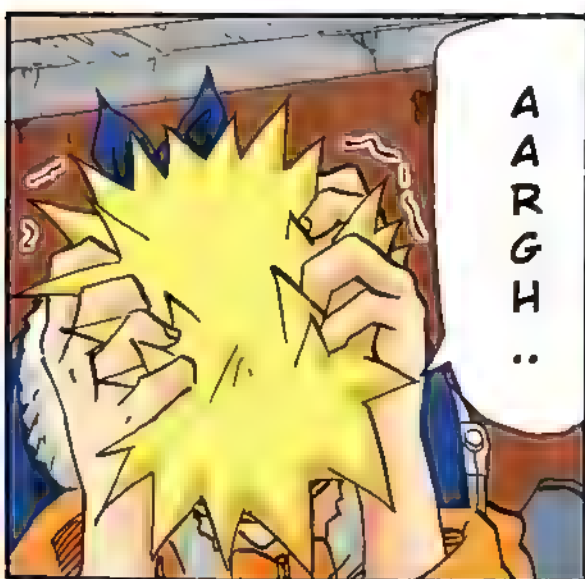
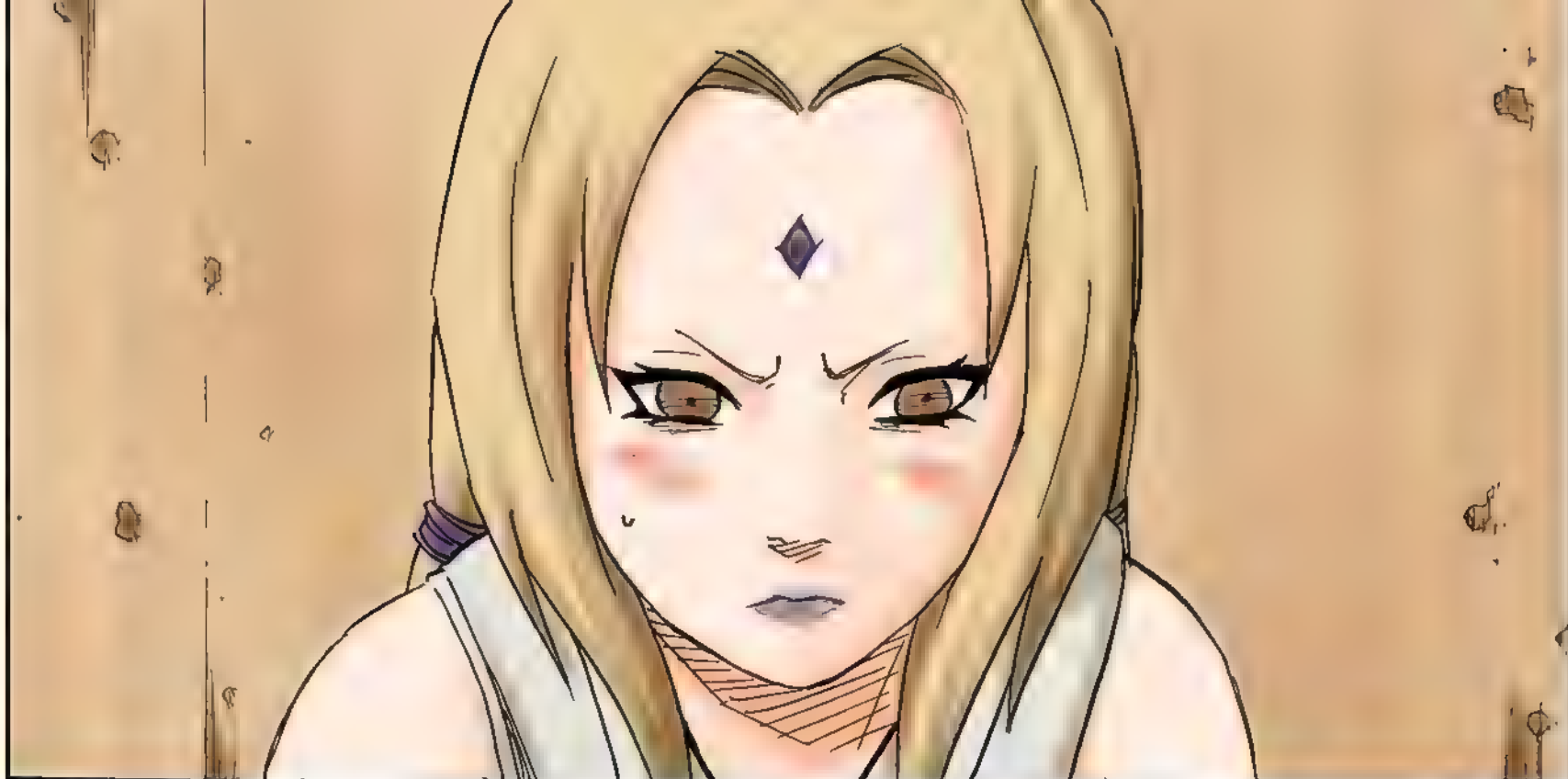


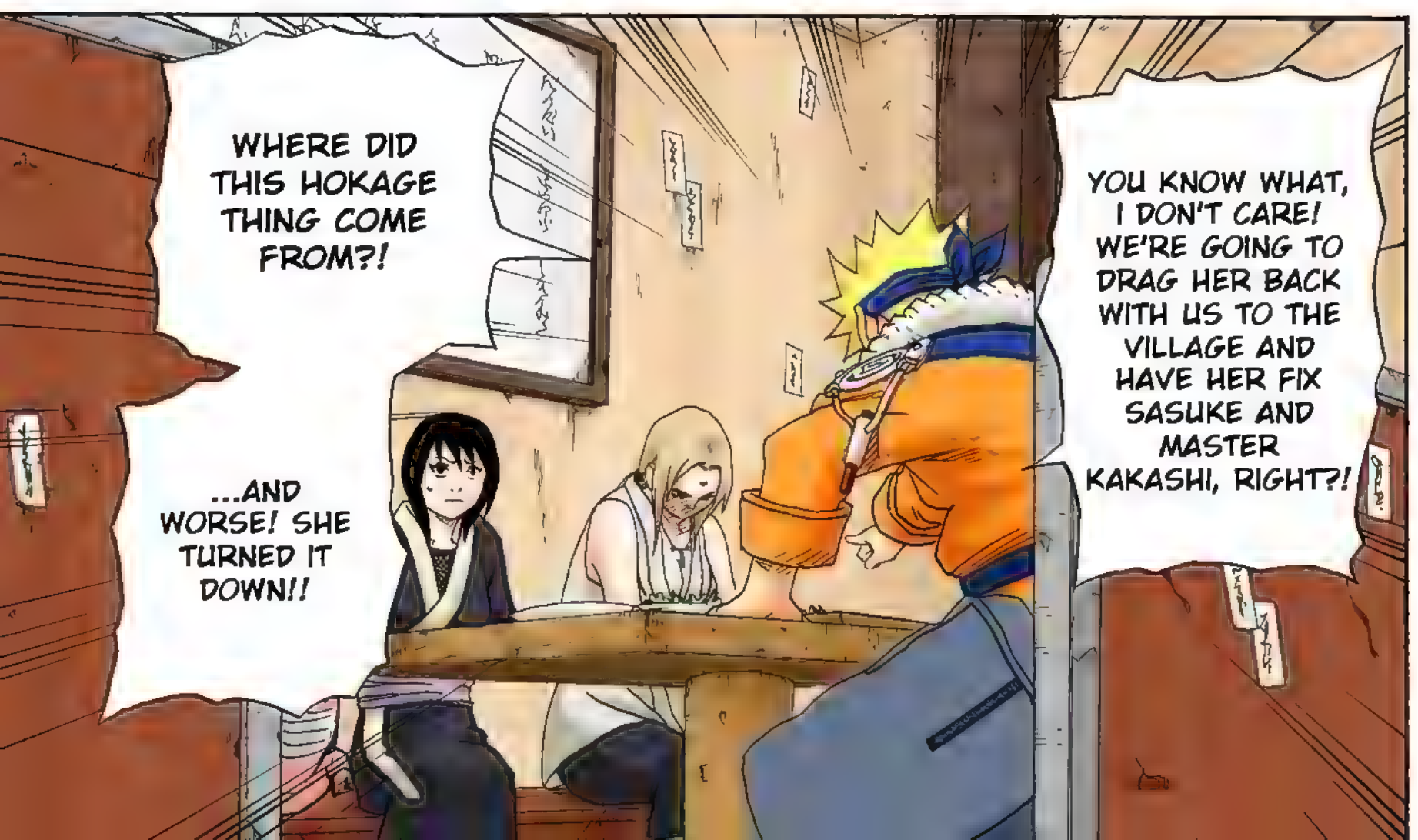
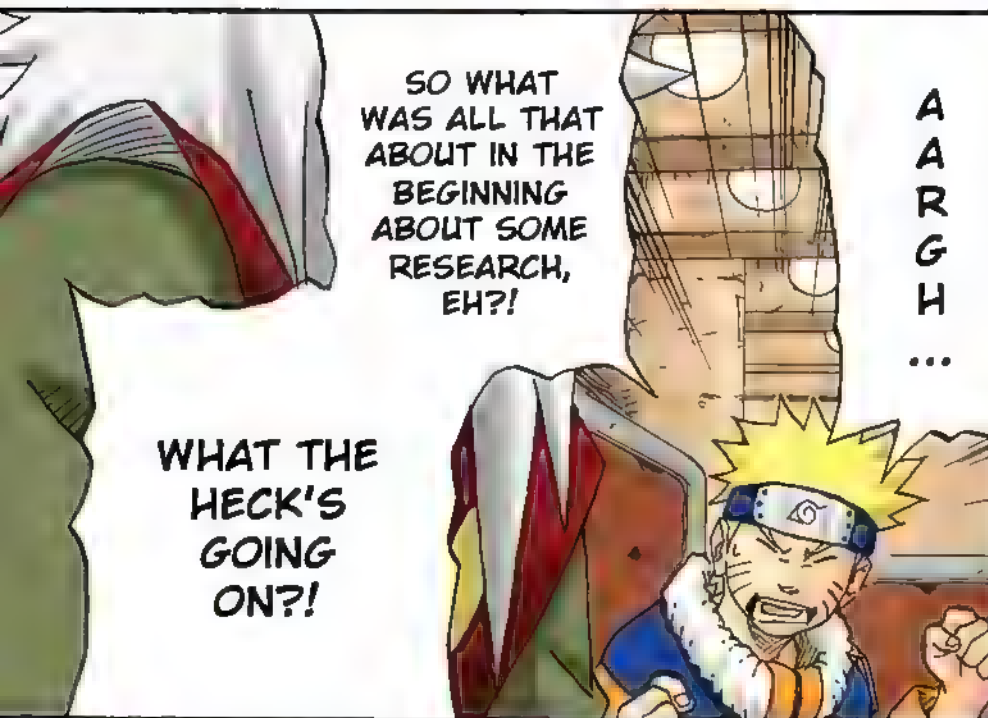
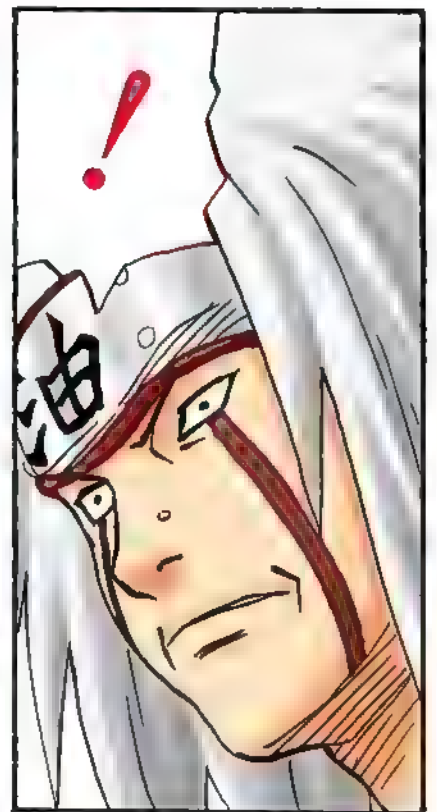
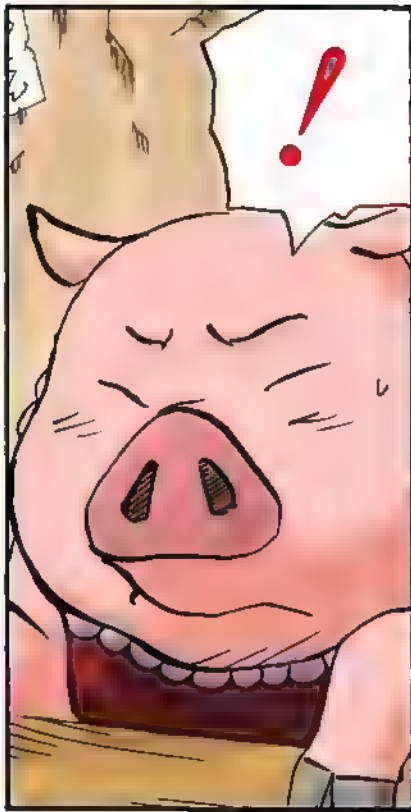
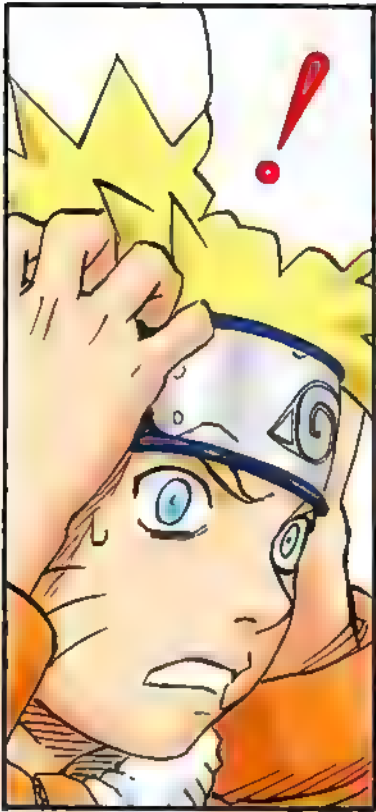


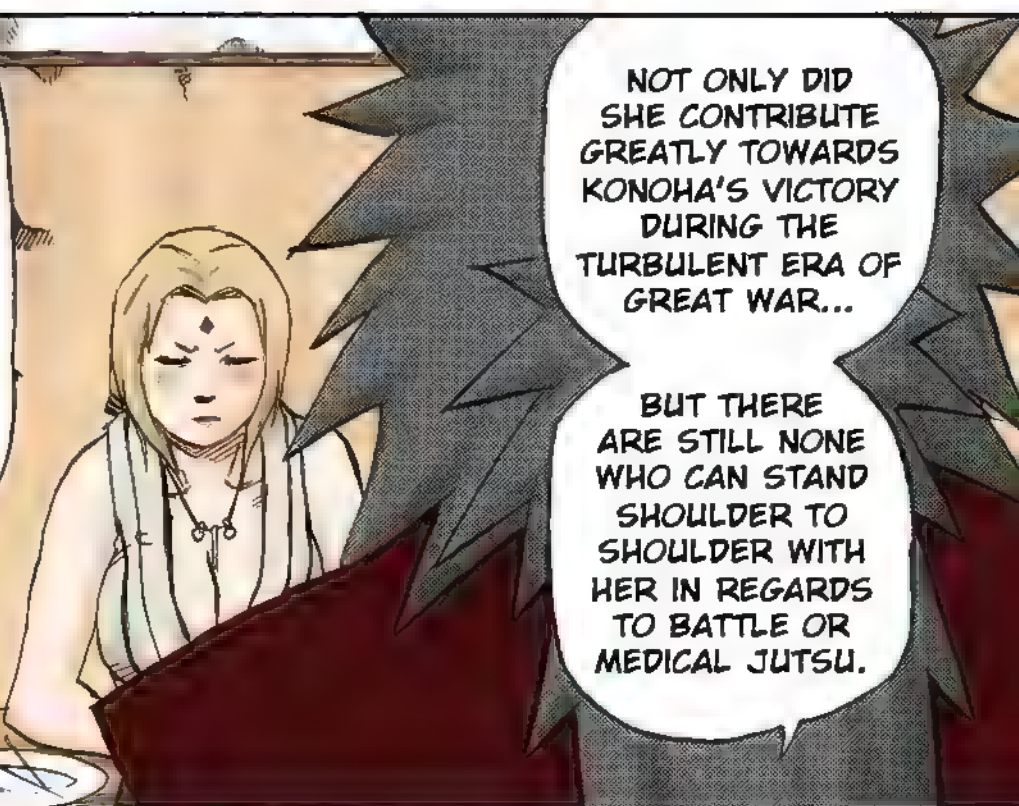
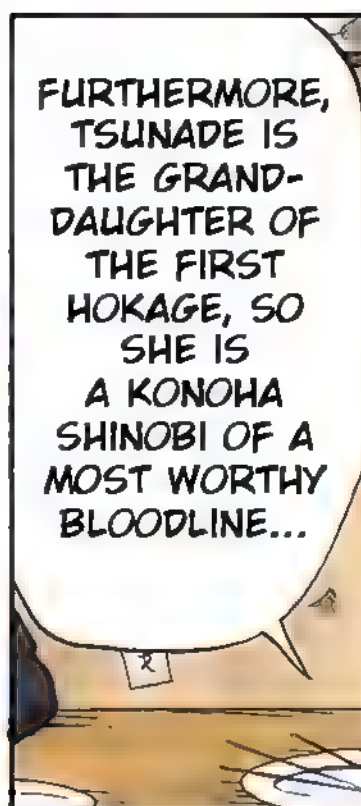
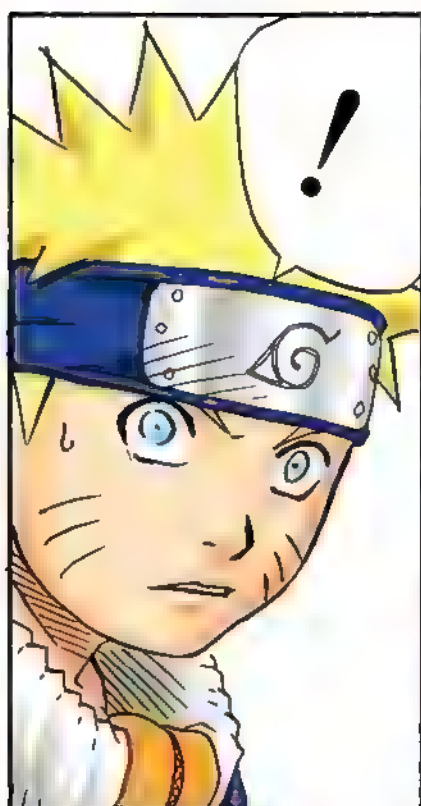
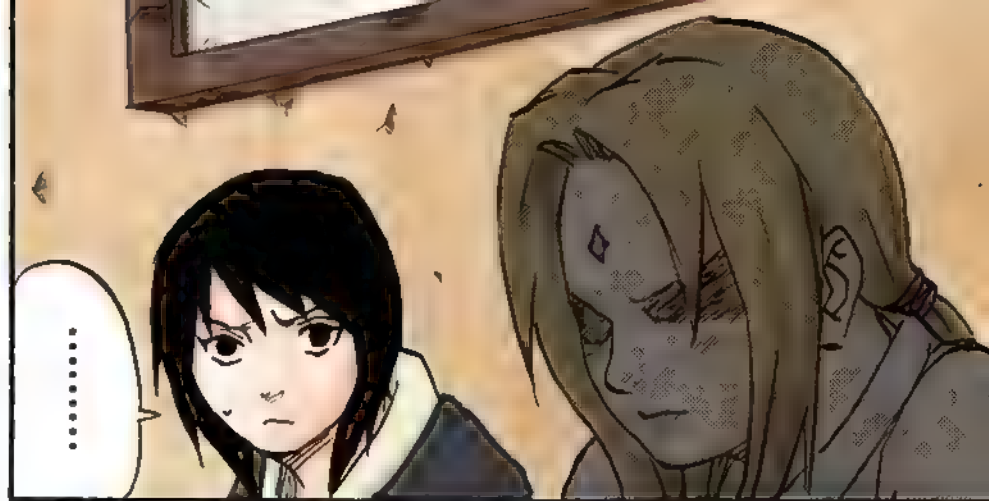
ナンバー

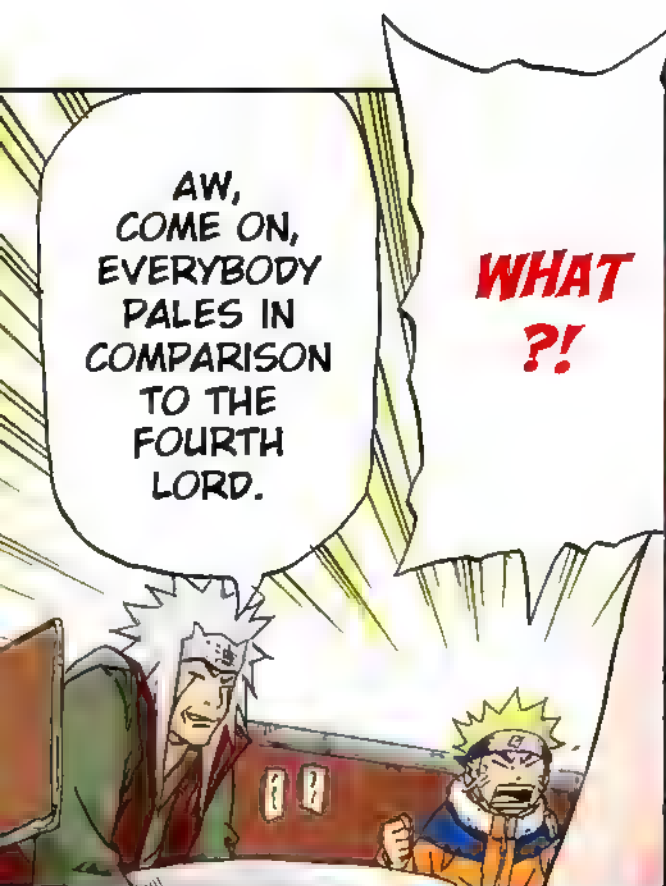
158 : NO FORGIVENESS...!!





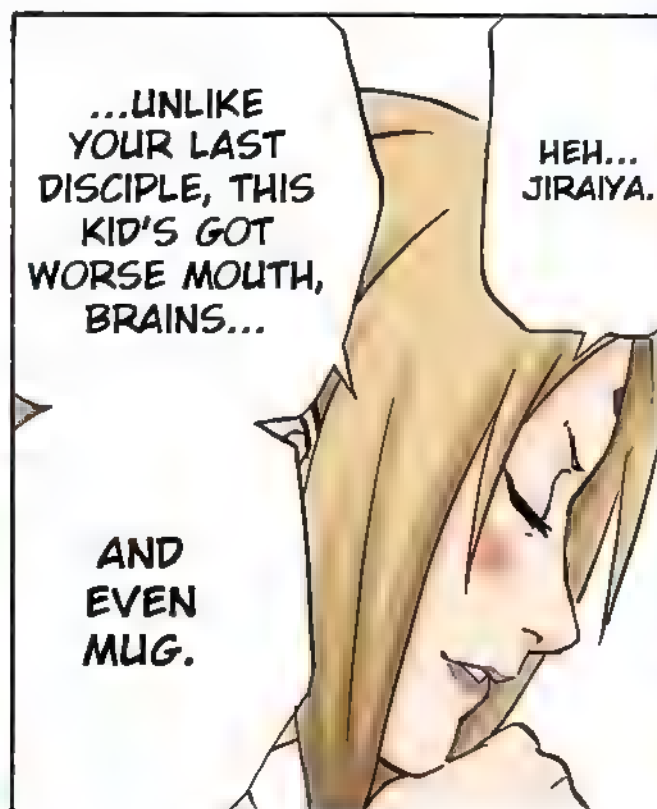






AW,
COME ON,
EVERYBODY
PALES IN
COMPARISON
TO THE
FOURTH
LORD.

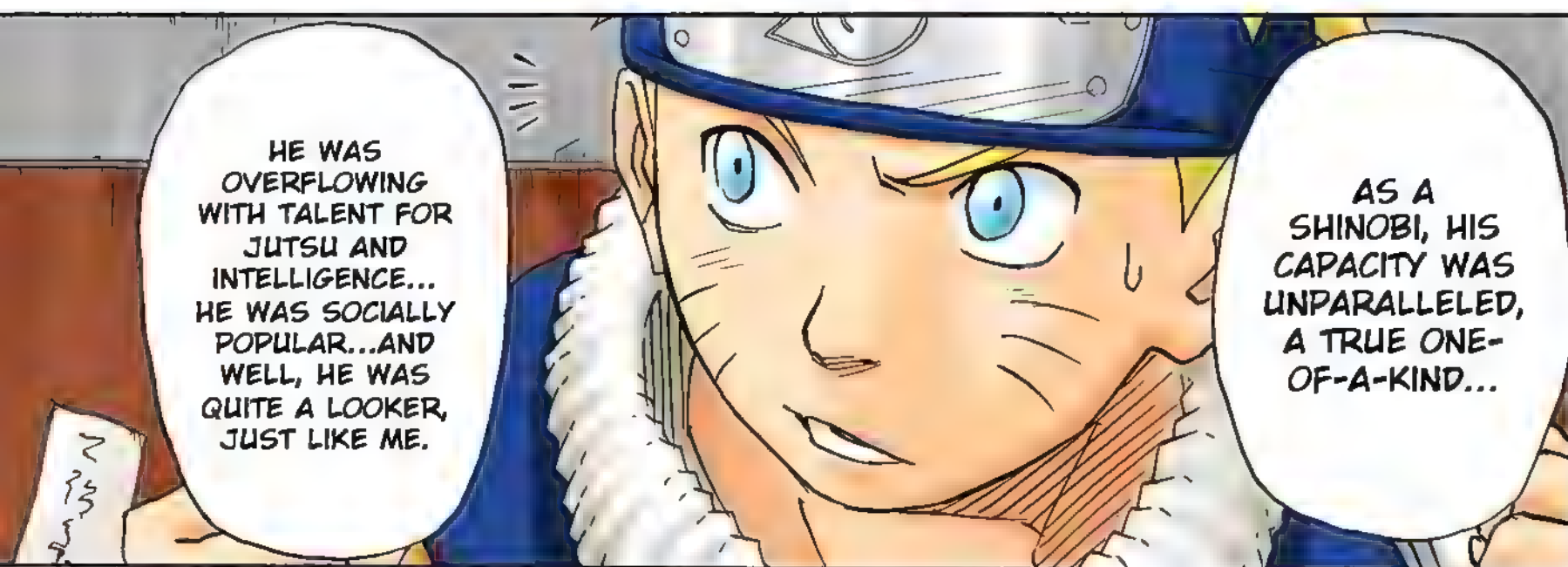
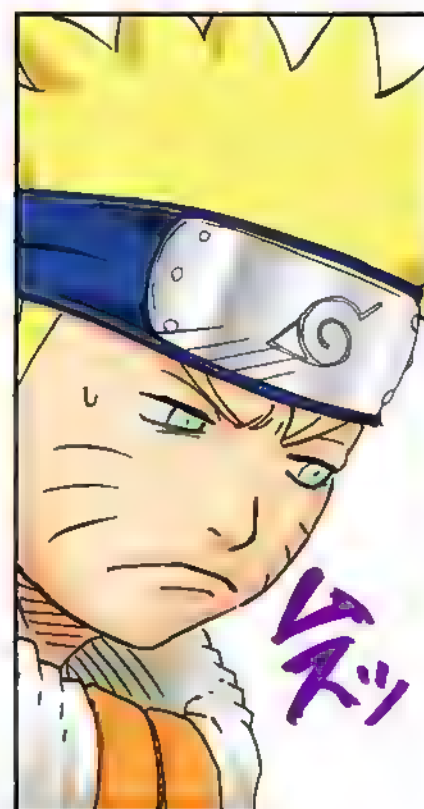
**WHAT
?!**



...UNLIKE
YOUR LAST
DISCIPLE, THIS
KID'S GOT
WORSE MOUTH,
BRAINS...

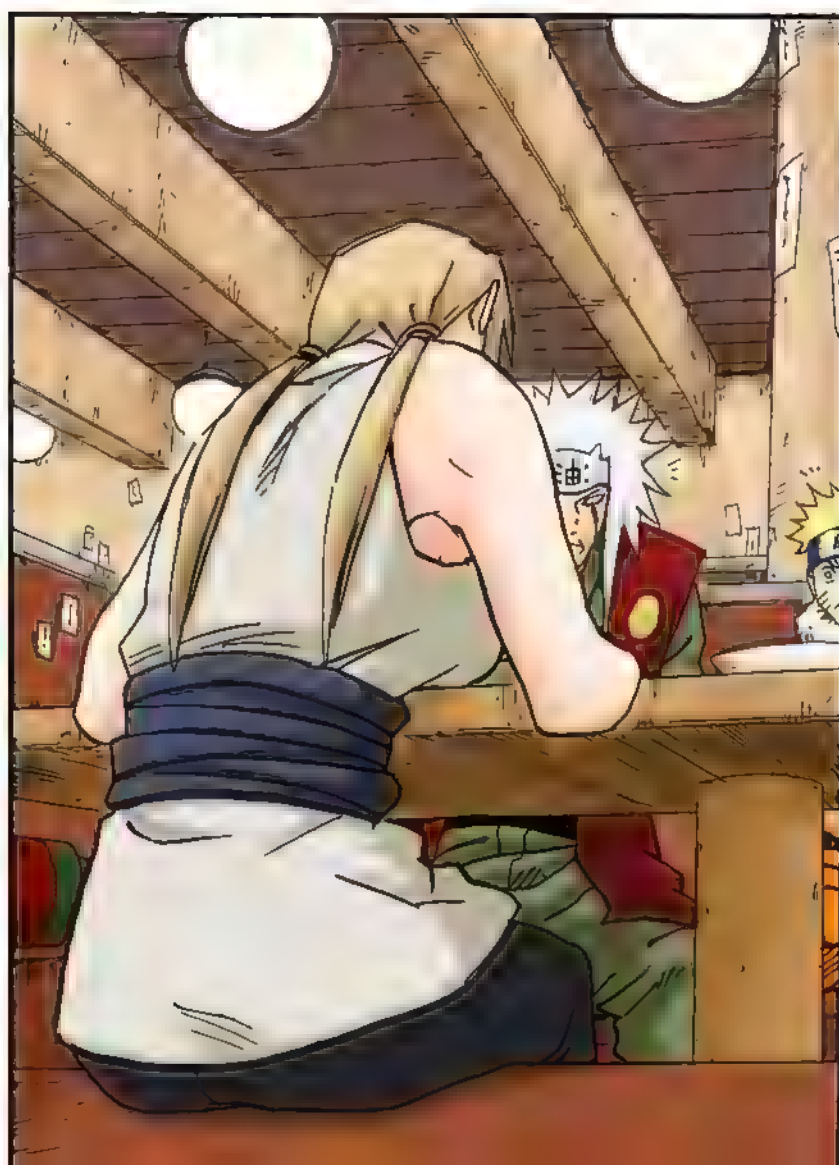
HEH...
JIRAIYA.

AND
EVEN
MUG.



HE WAS
OVERFLOWING
WITH TALENT FOR
JUTSU AND
INTELLIGENCE...
HE WAS SOCIALLY
POPULAR...AND
WELL, HE WAS
QUITE A LOOKER,
JUST LIKE ME.

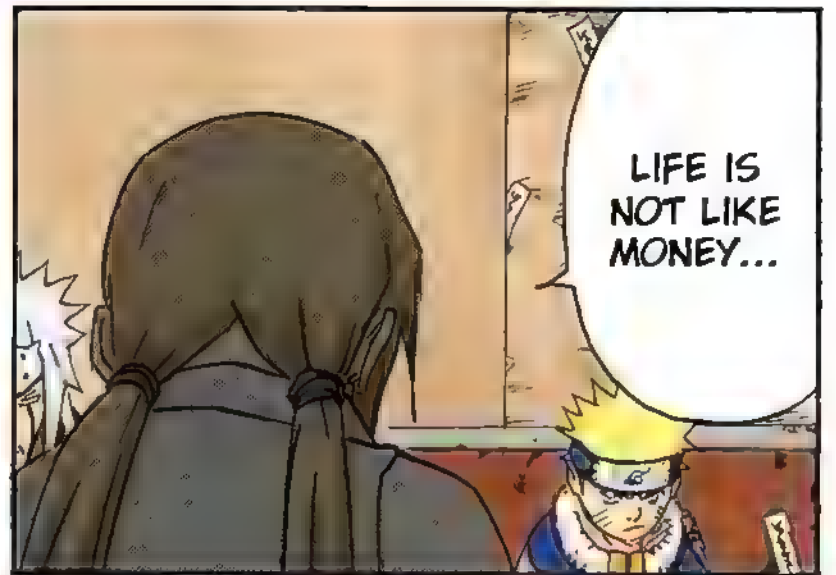
AS A
SHINOBI, HIS
CAPACITY WAS
UNPARALLELED,
A TRUE ONE-
OF-A-KIND...



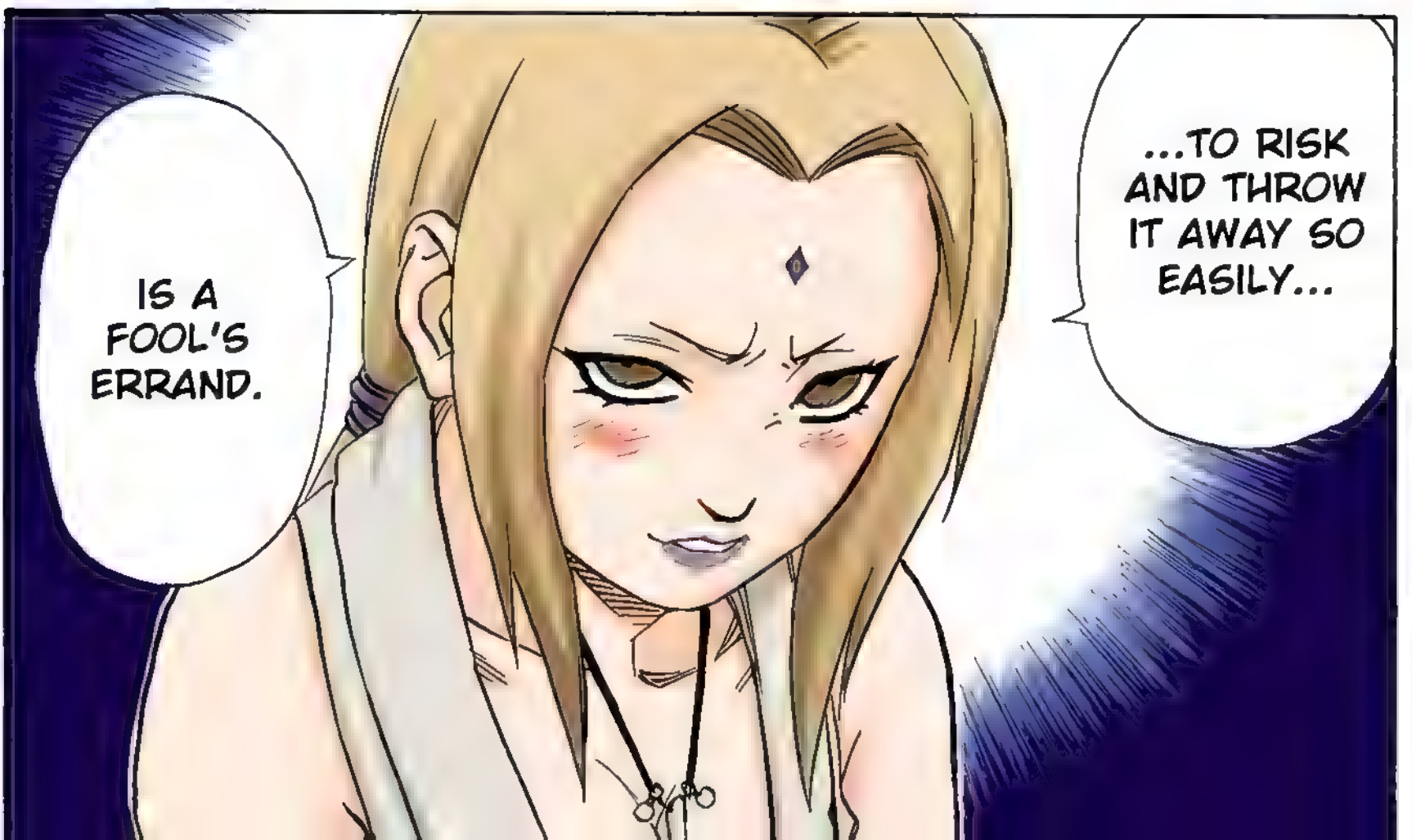
...BUT EVEN
WITH ALL THAT
GOING FOR
HIM, HE DIED
PREMATURELY...



SACRAFICING
HIS LIFE FOR
THE SAKE
OF THE
VILLAGE...

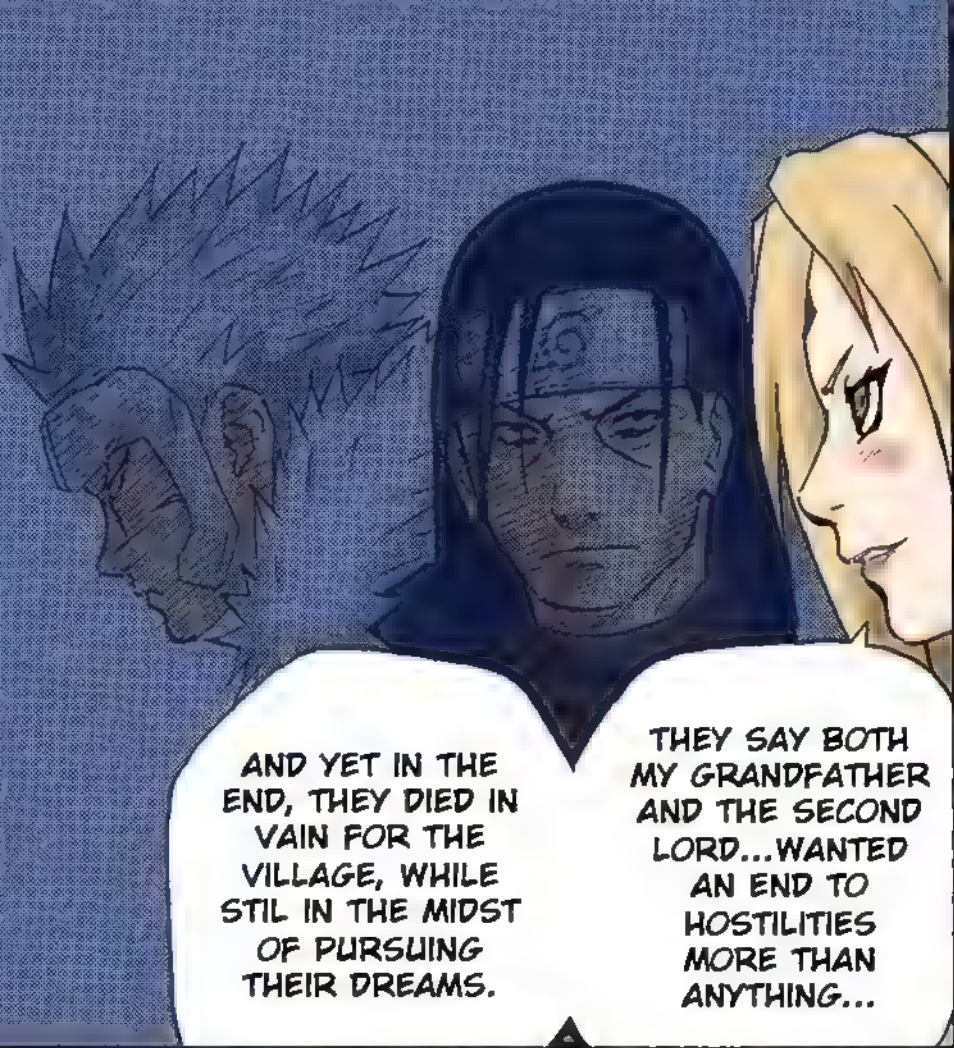


LIFE IS
NOT LIKE
MONEY...



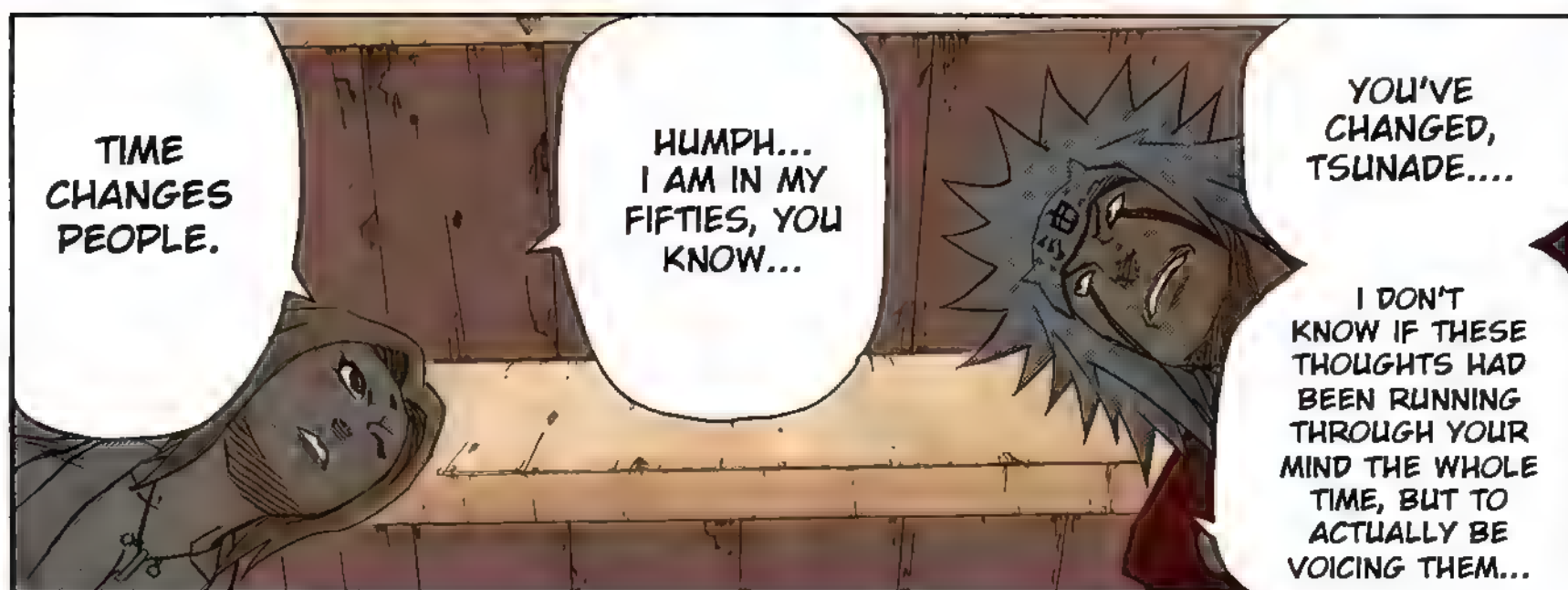
IS A
FOOL'S
ERRAND.

...TO RISK
AND THROW
IT AWAY SO
EASILY...



AND YET IN THE
END, THEY DIED IN
VAIN FOR THE
VILLAGE, WHILE
STIL IN THE MIDST
OF PURSUING
THEIR DREAMS.

THEY SAY BOTH
MY GRANDFATHER
AND THE SECOND
LORD...WANTED
AN END TO
HOSTILITIES
MORE THAN
ANYTHING...



TIME
CHANGES
PEOPLE.

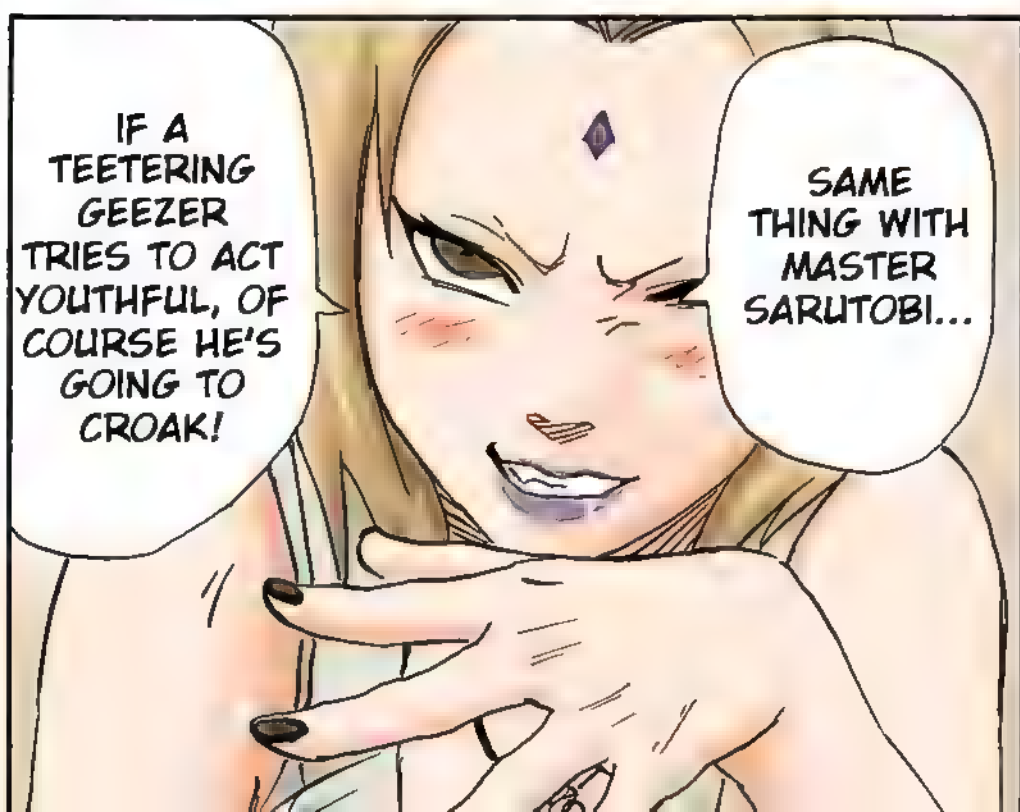
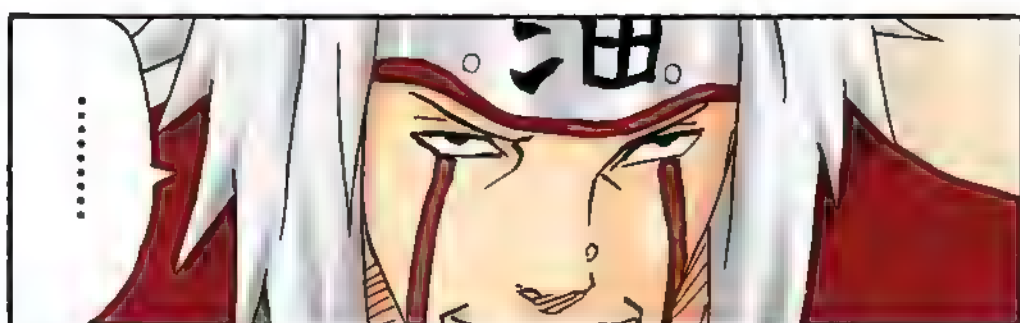
HUMPH...
I AM IN MY
FIFTIES, YOU
KNOW...

YOU'VE
CHANGED,
TSUNADE....

I DON'T
KNOW IF THESE
THOUGHTS HAD
BEEN RUNNING
THROUGH YOUR
MIND THE WHOLE
TIME, BUT TO
ACTUALLY BE
VOICING THEM...

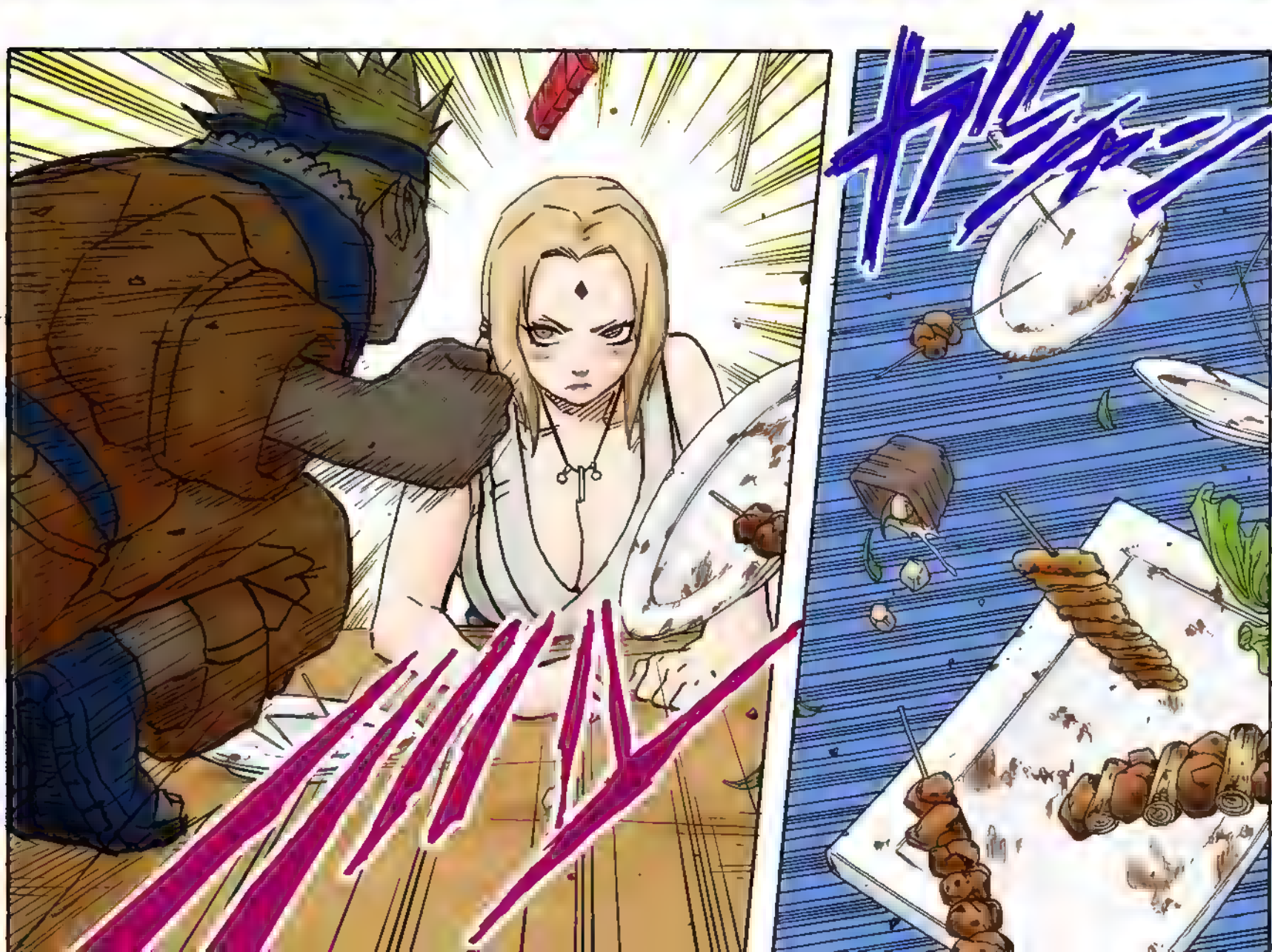
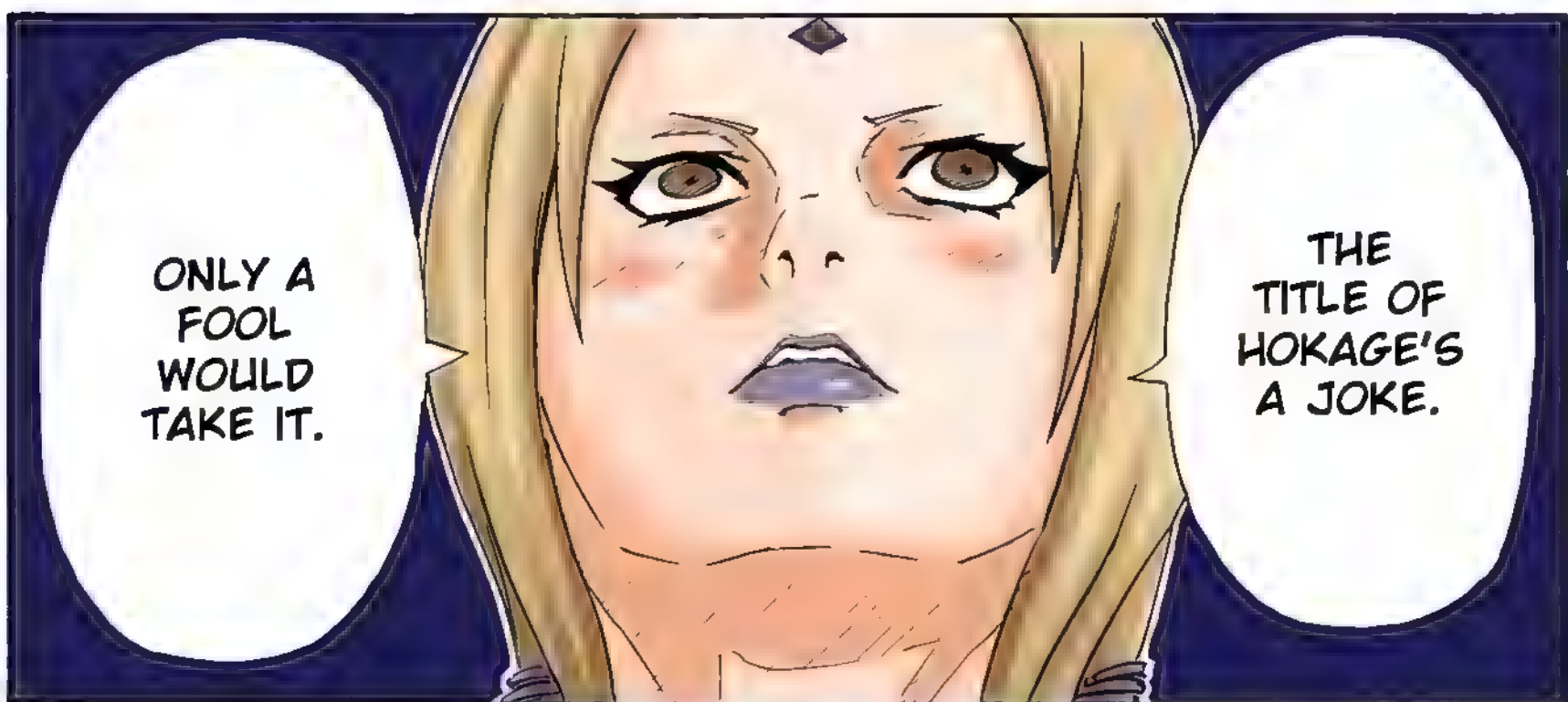
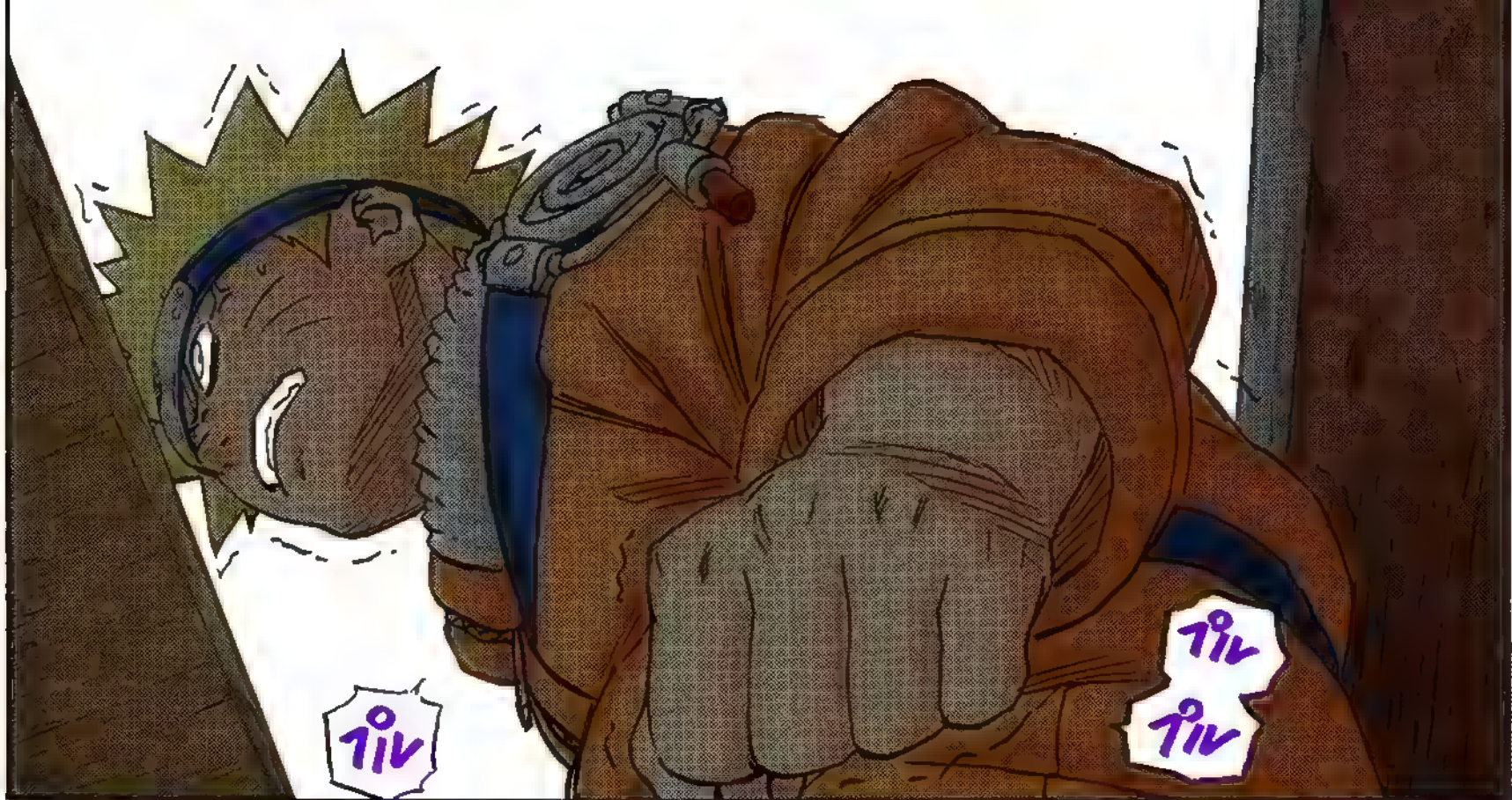


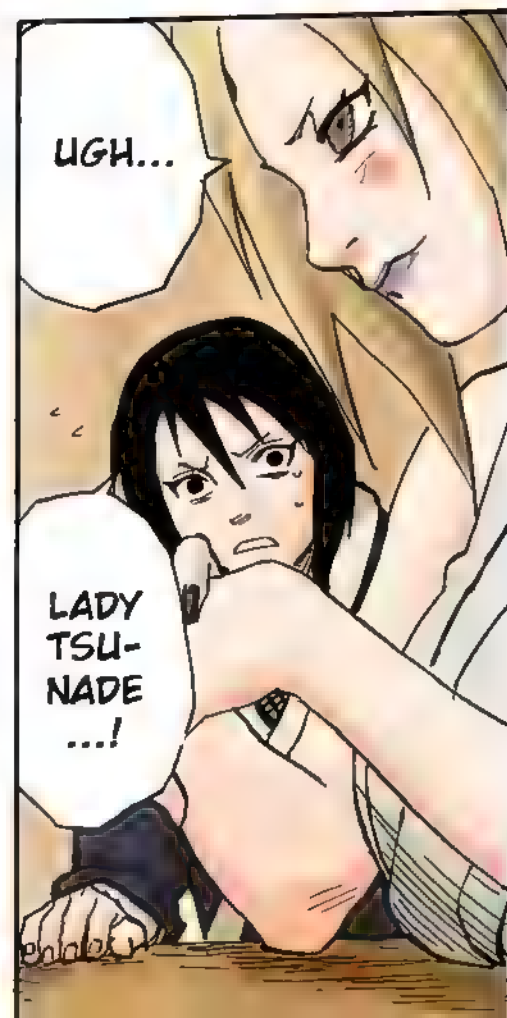
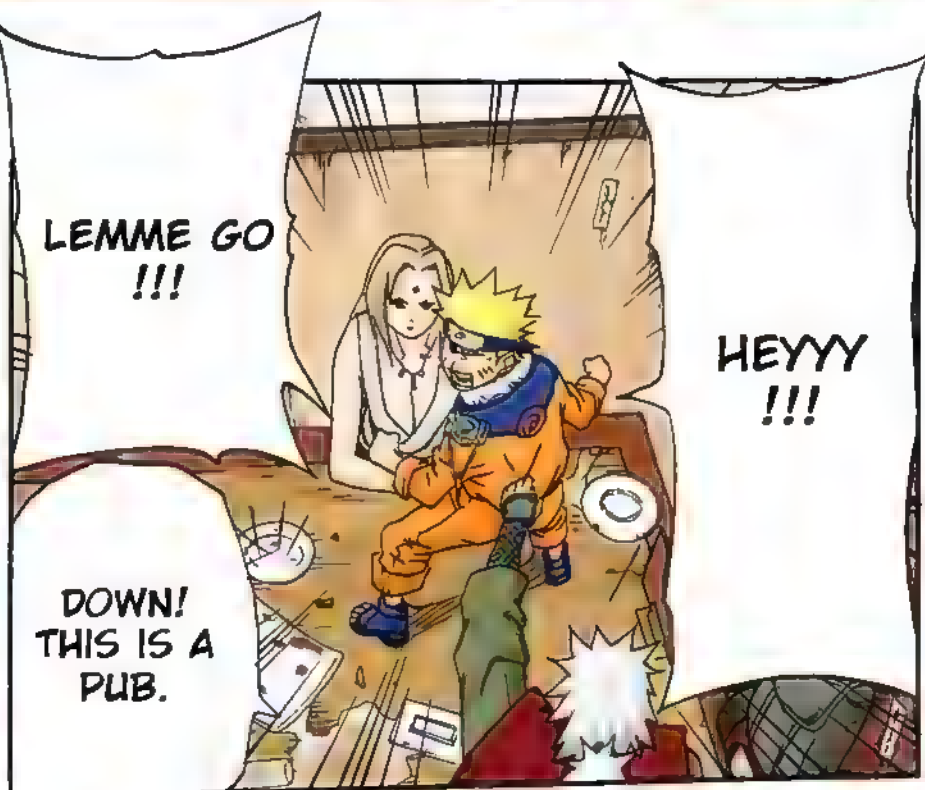
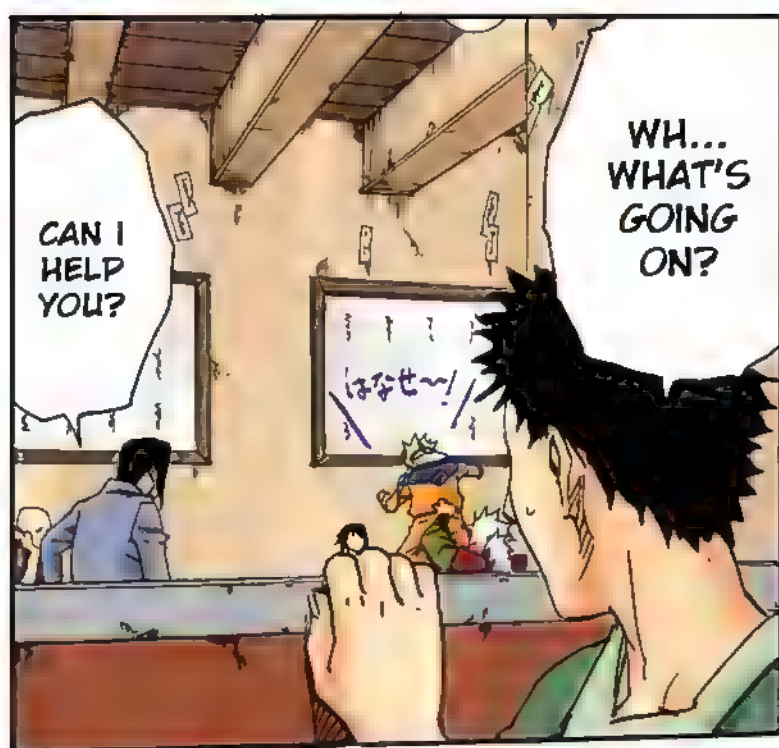
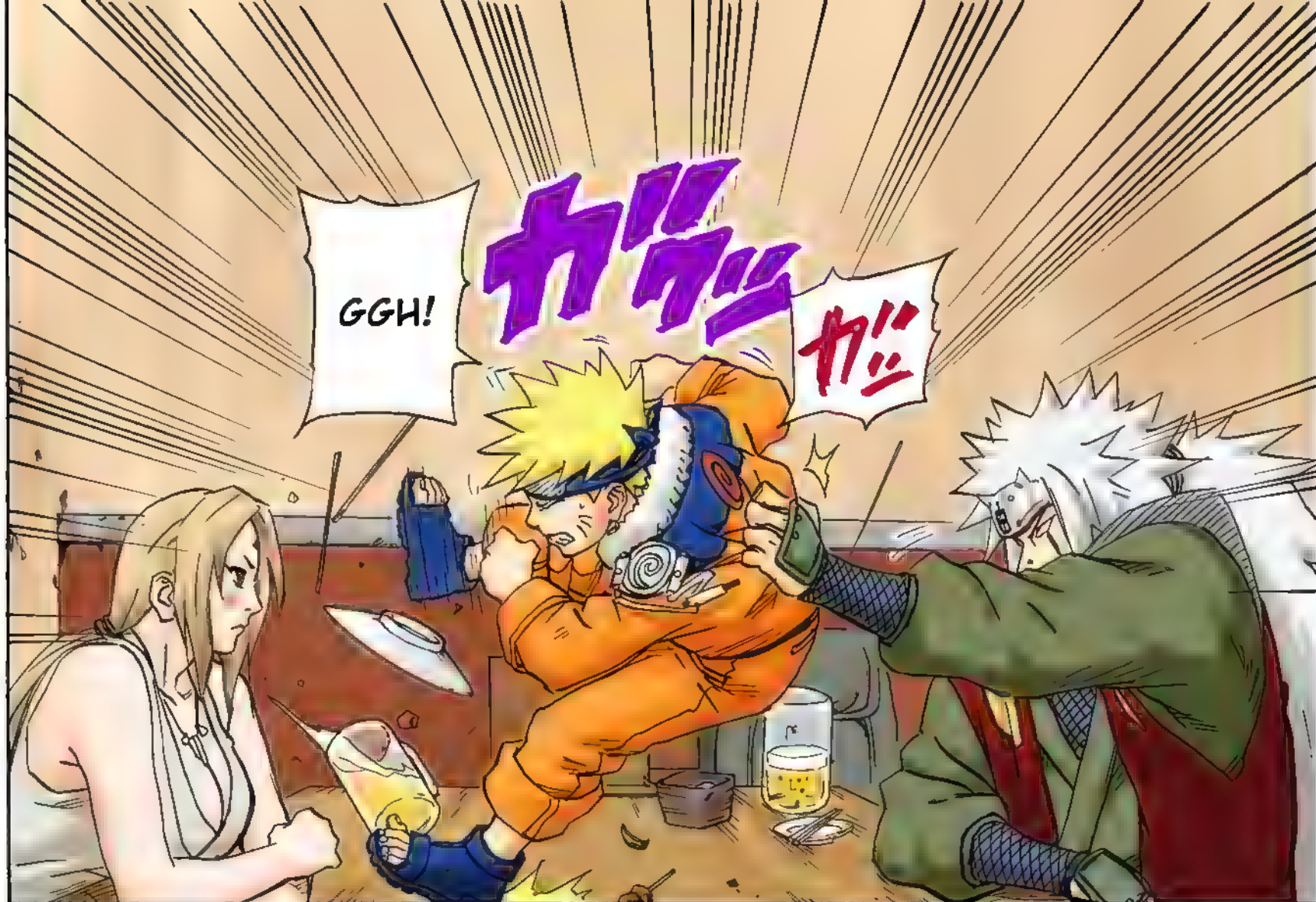
ヒキッ



IF A
TEETERING
GEEZER
TRIES TO ACT
YOUTHFUL, OF
COURSE HE'S
GOING TO
CROAK!

SAME
THING WITH
MASTER
SARUTOBI...

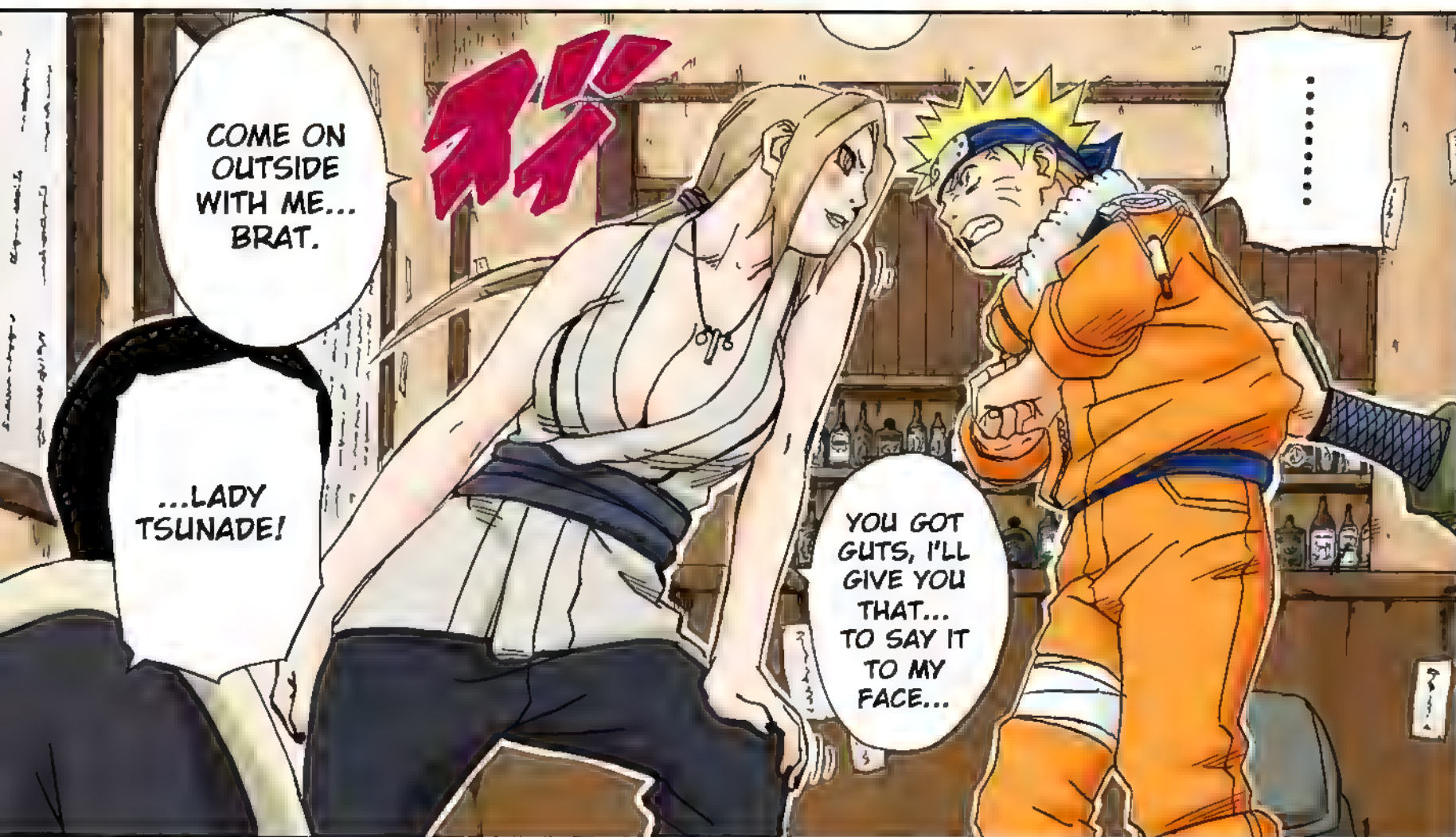
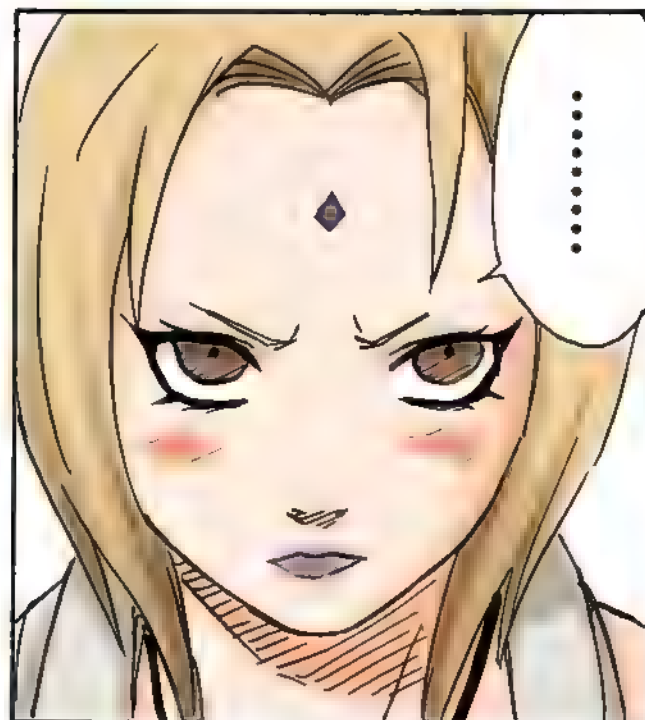
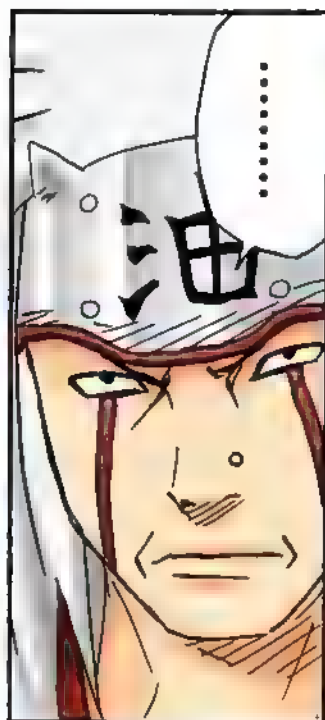
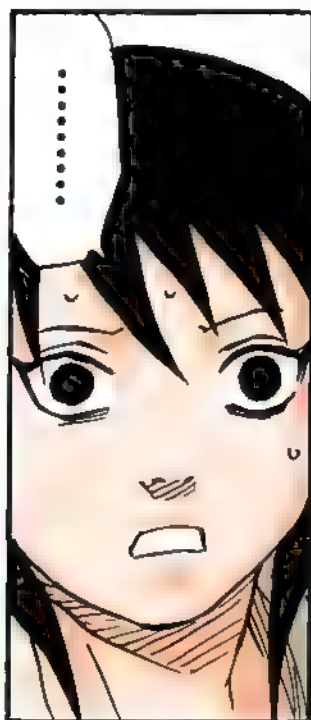
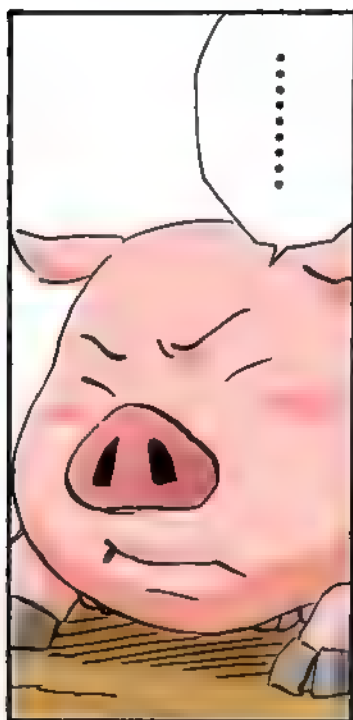


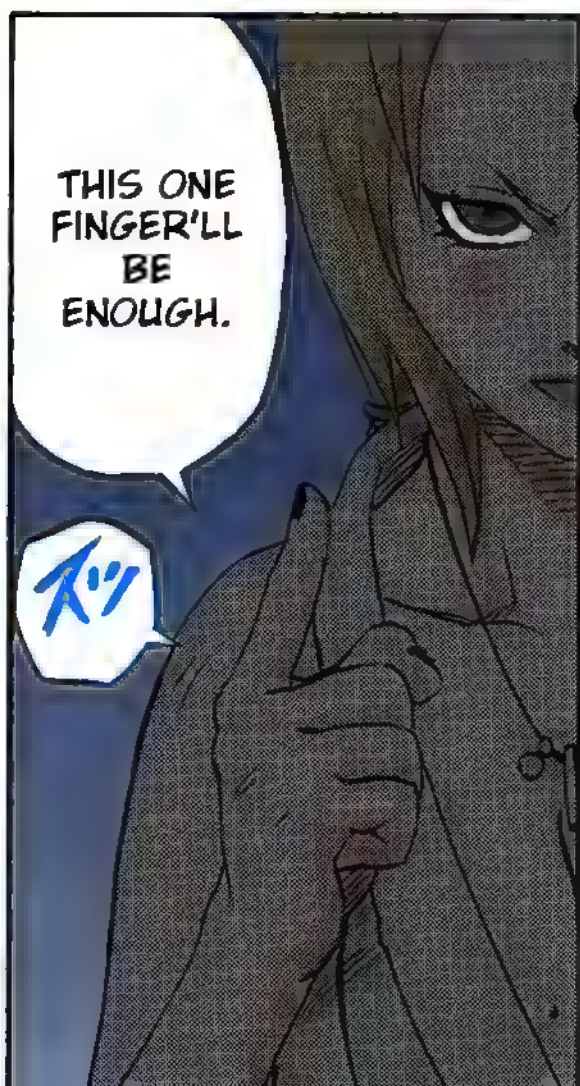
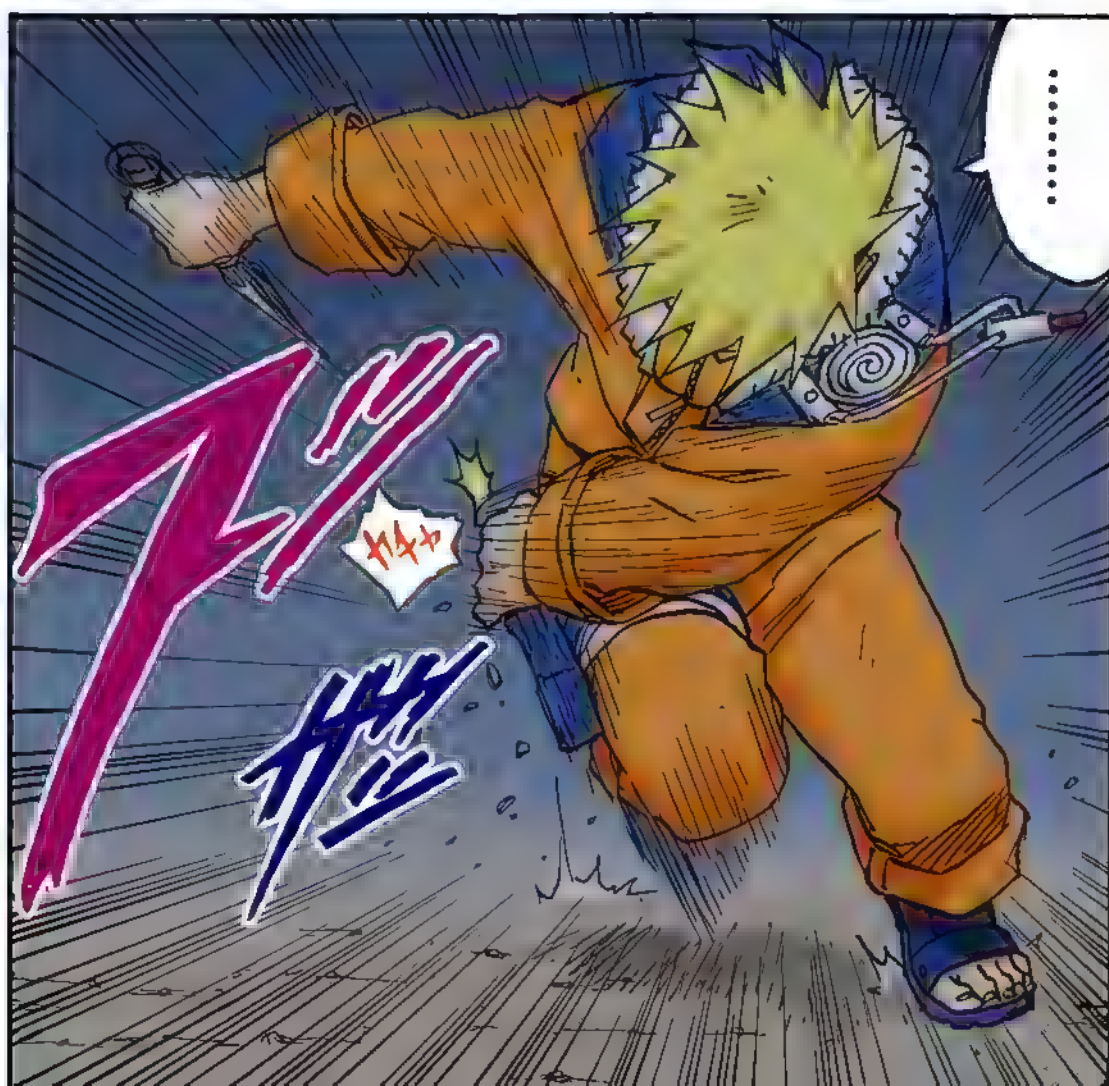
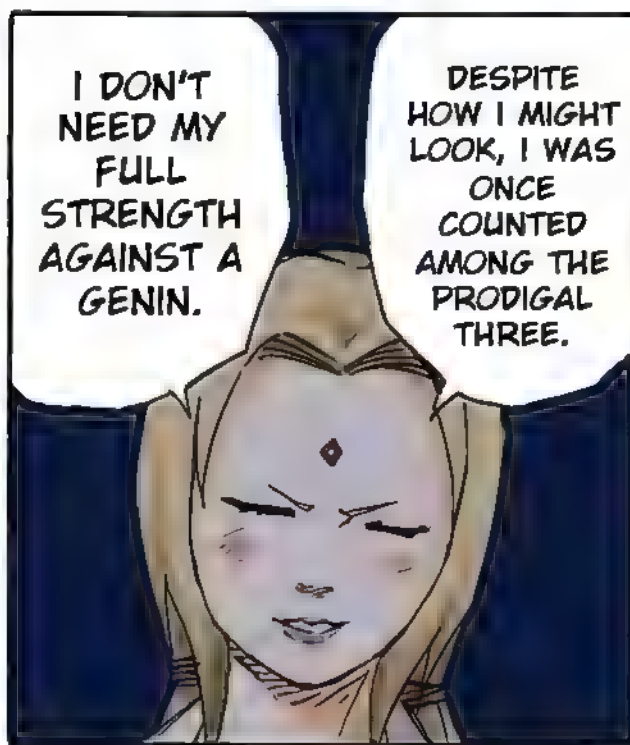


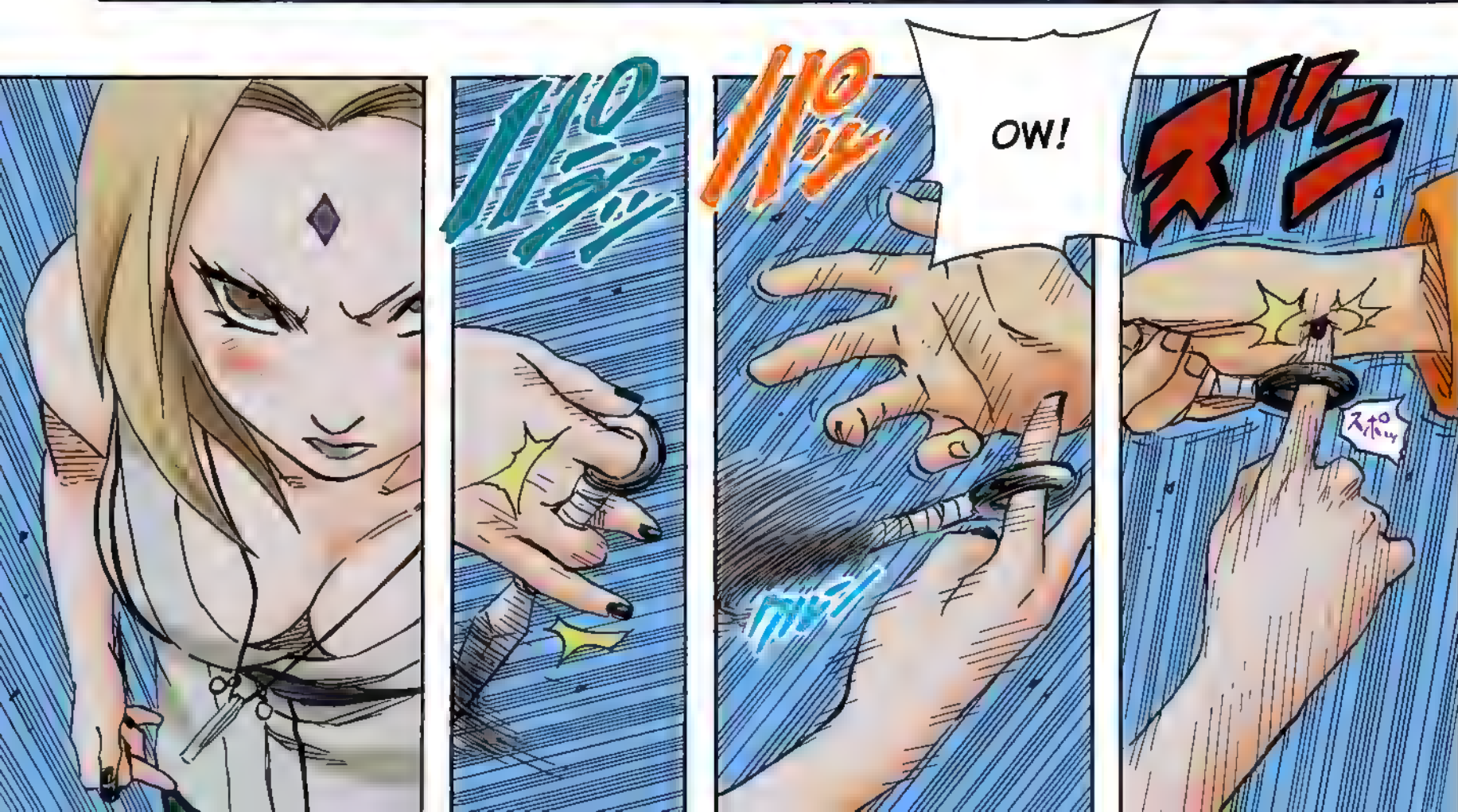
***I'LL SLUG
YOU WITH
ALL I'VE
GOT!!!***

***I DON'T
CARE
THAT
YOU'RE A
LADY!!***

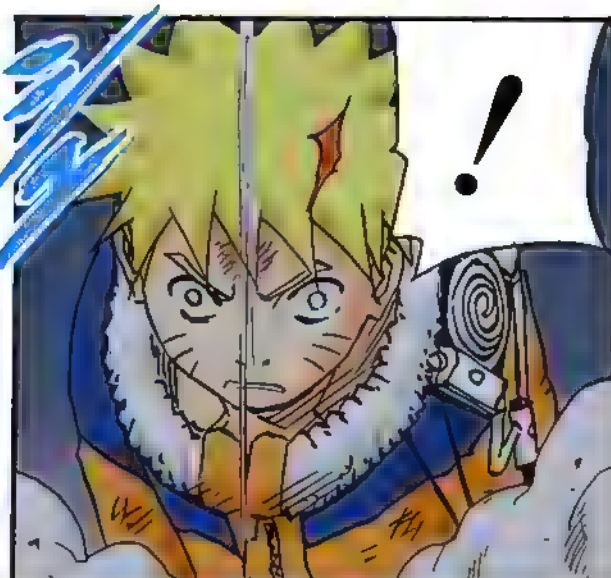
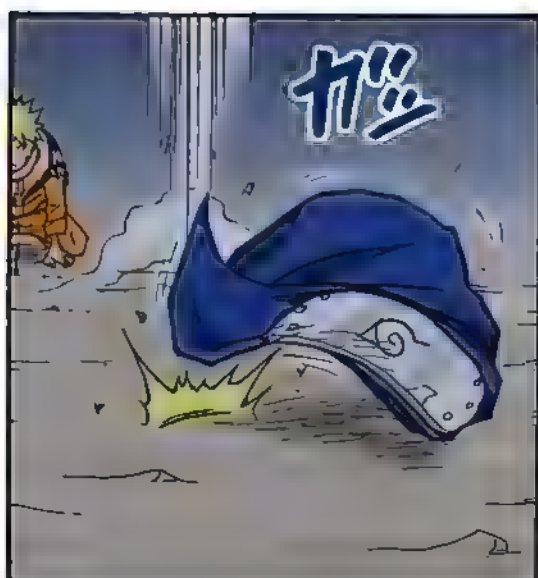
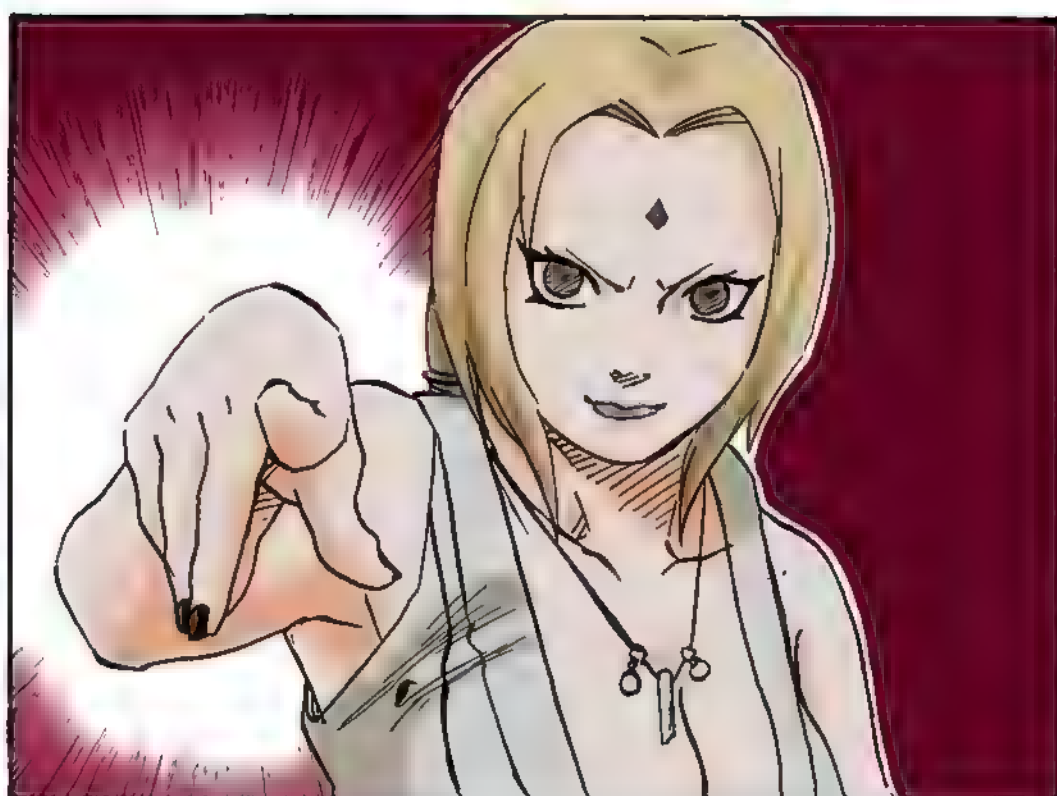
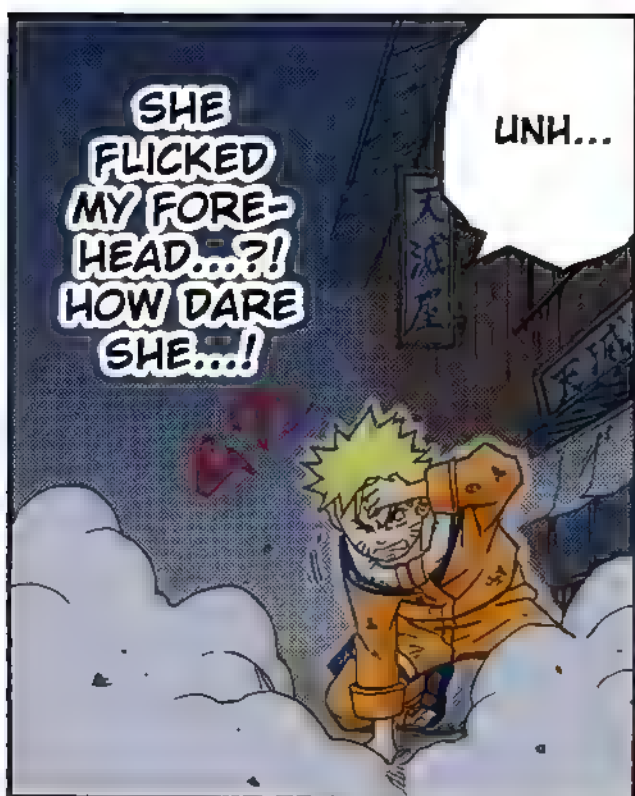
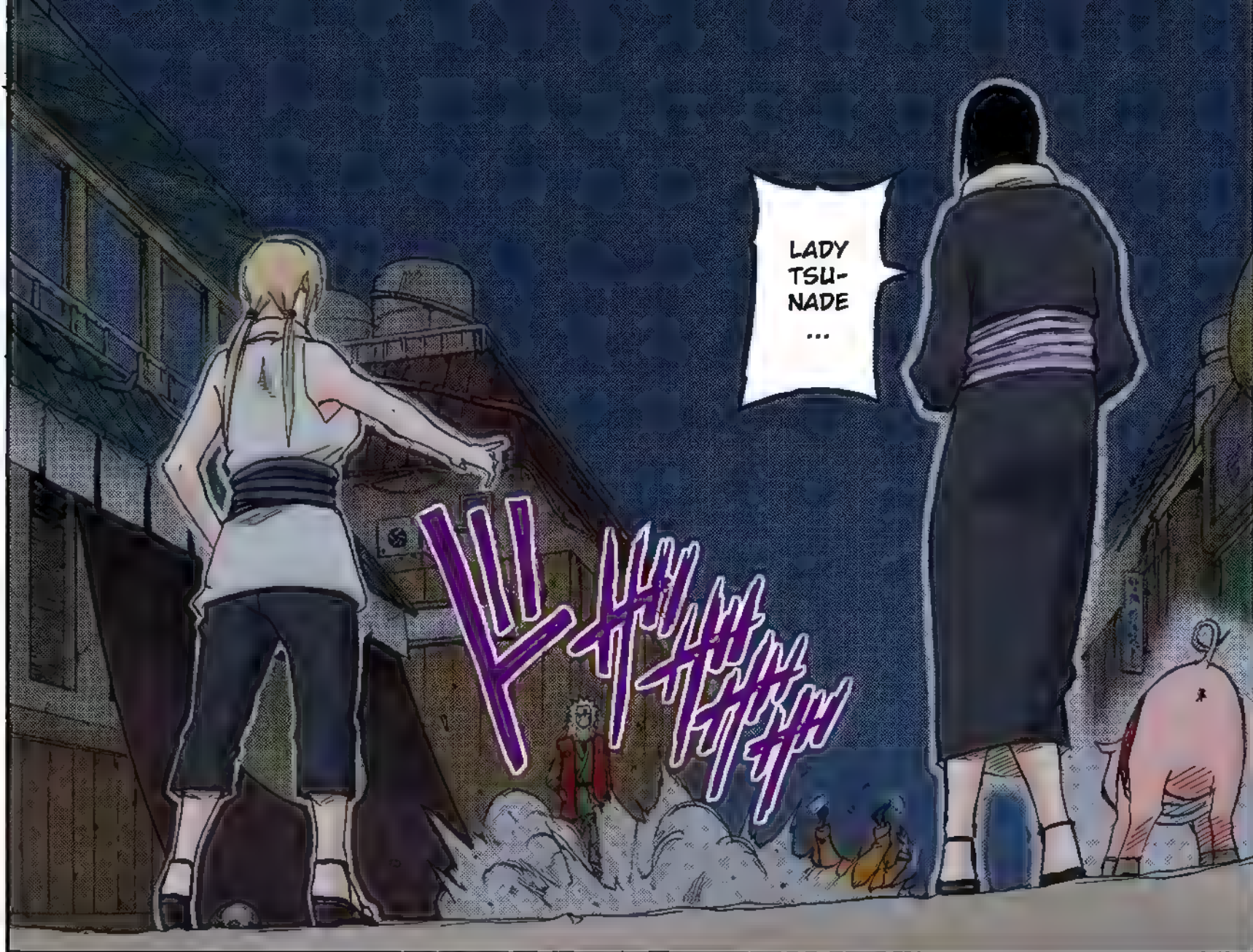


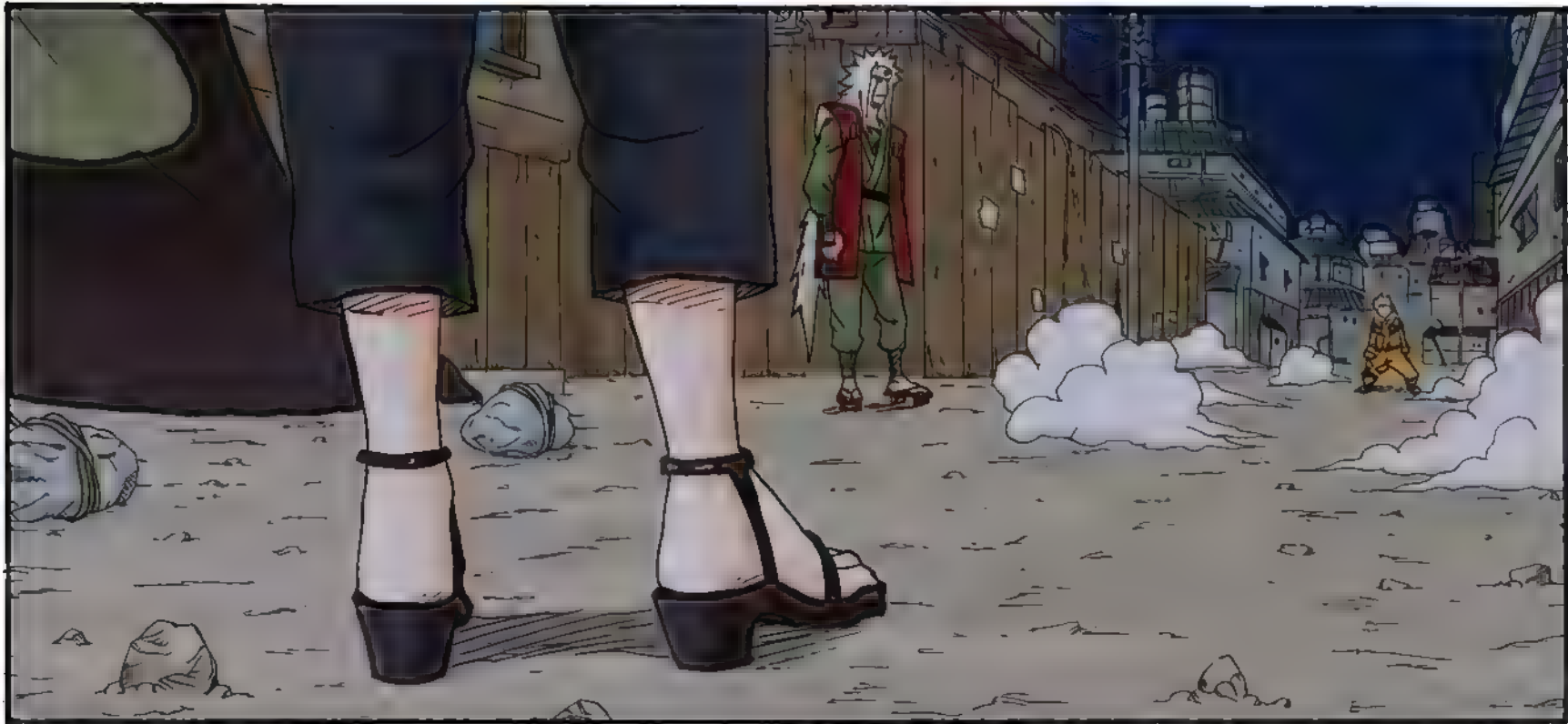


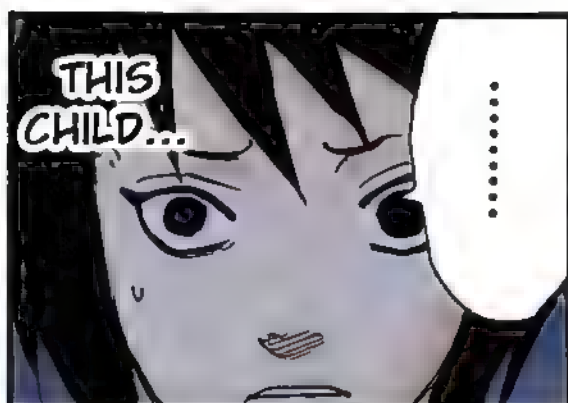
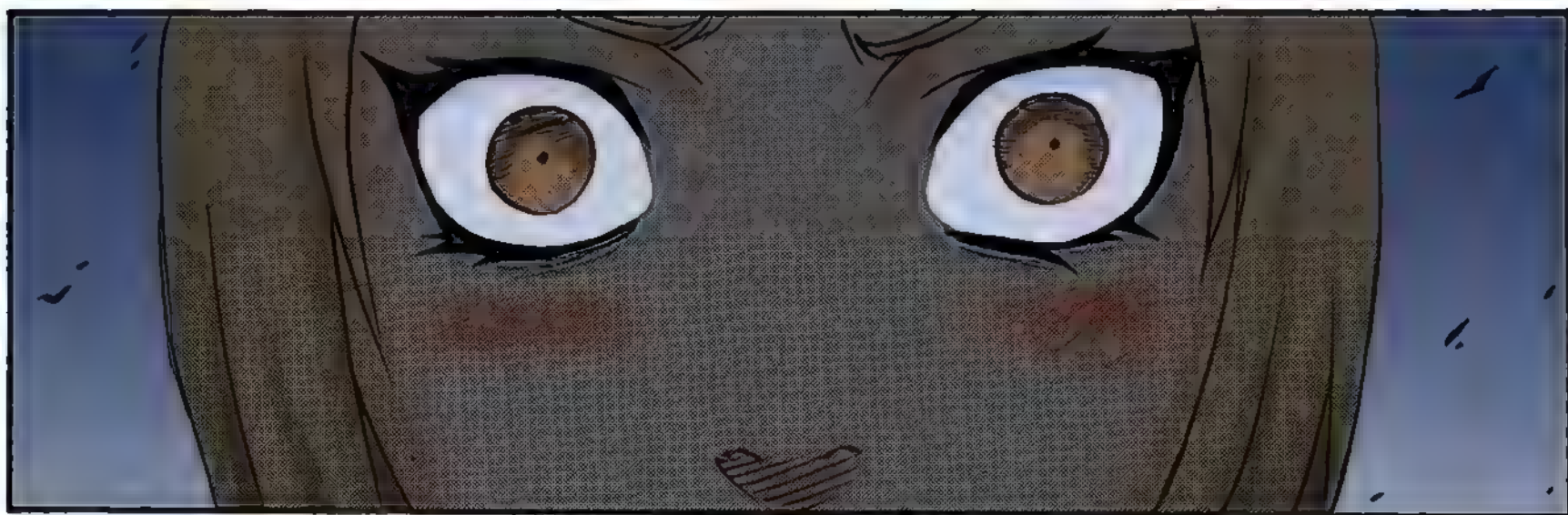


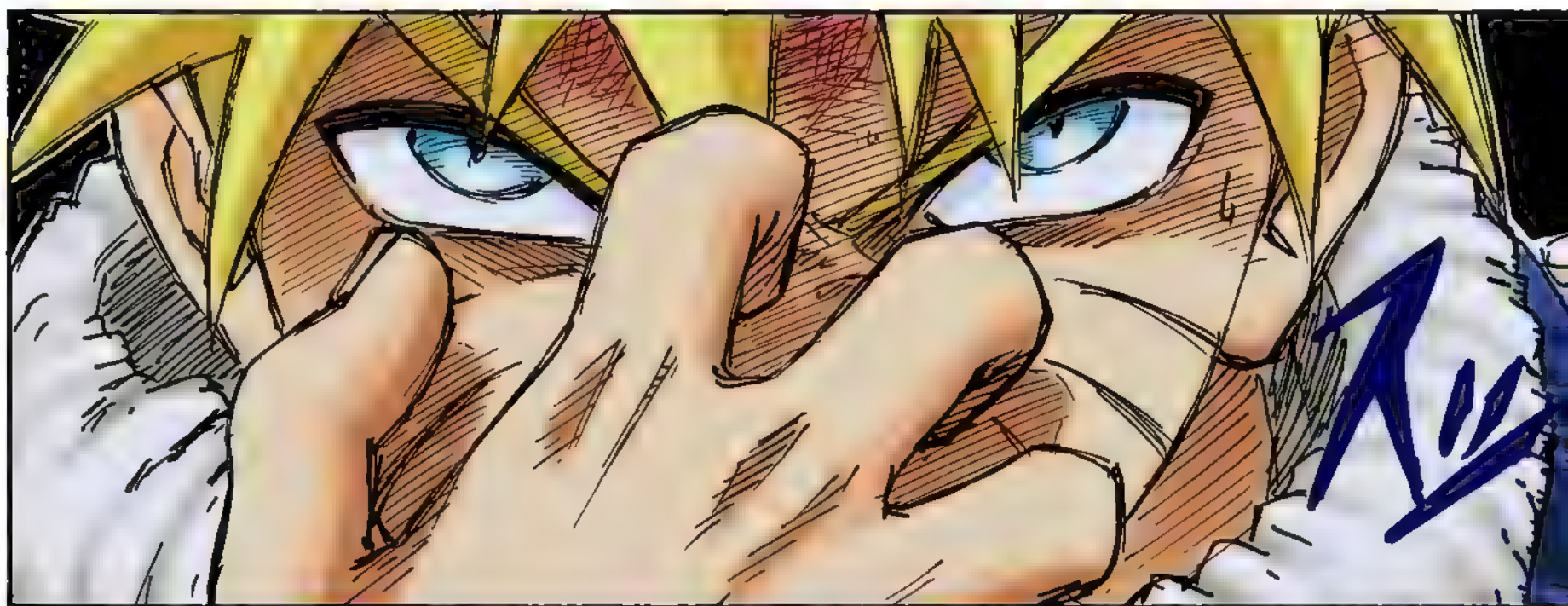
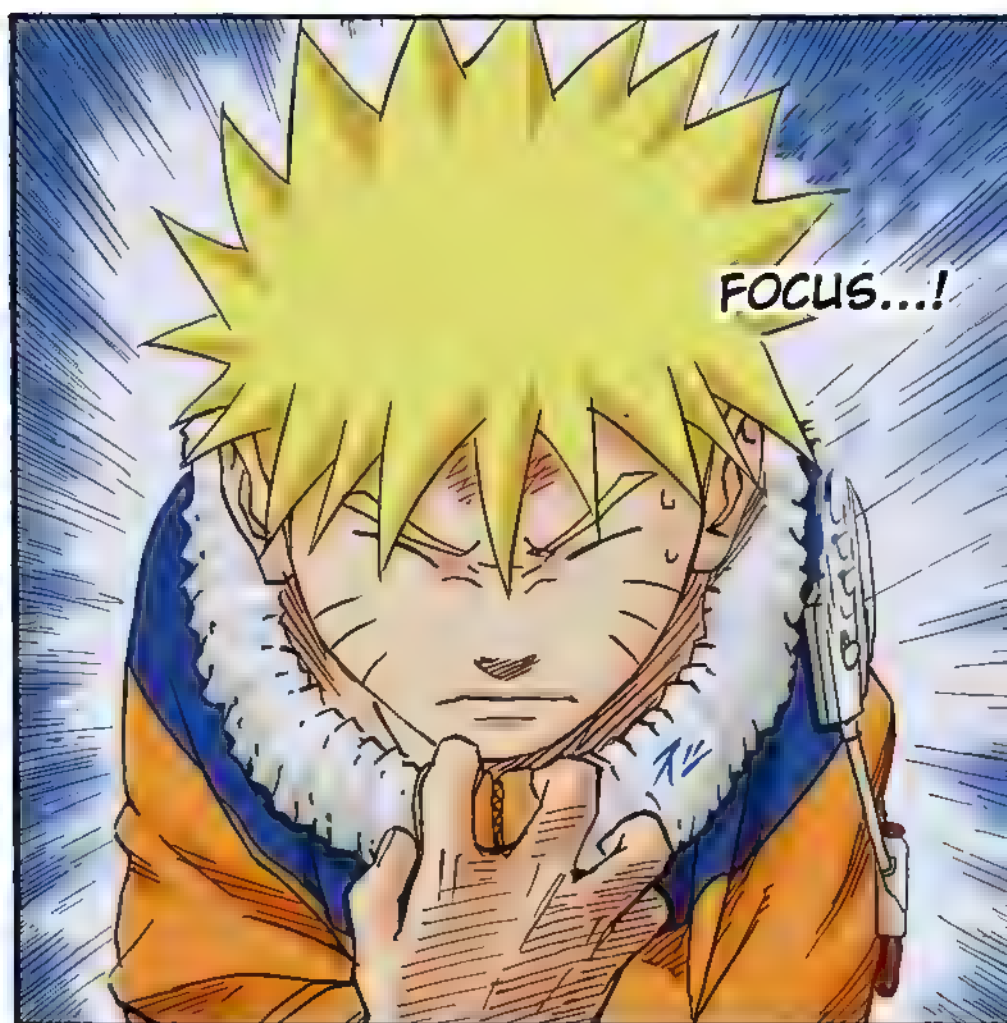
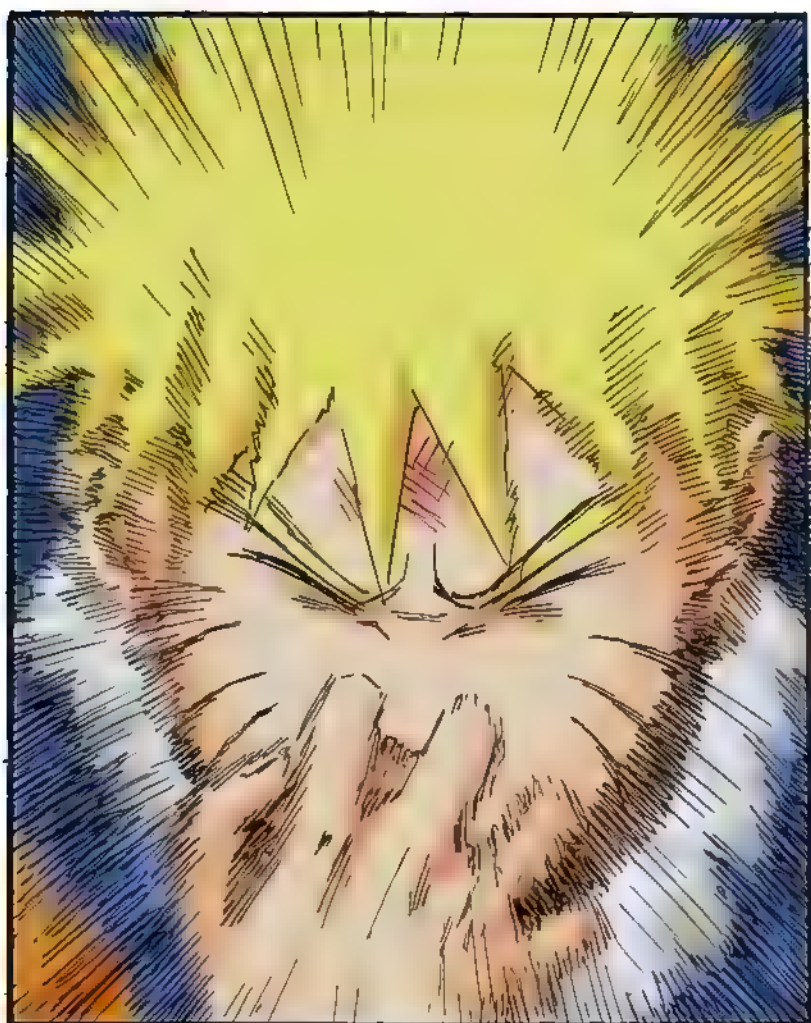
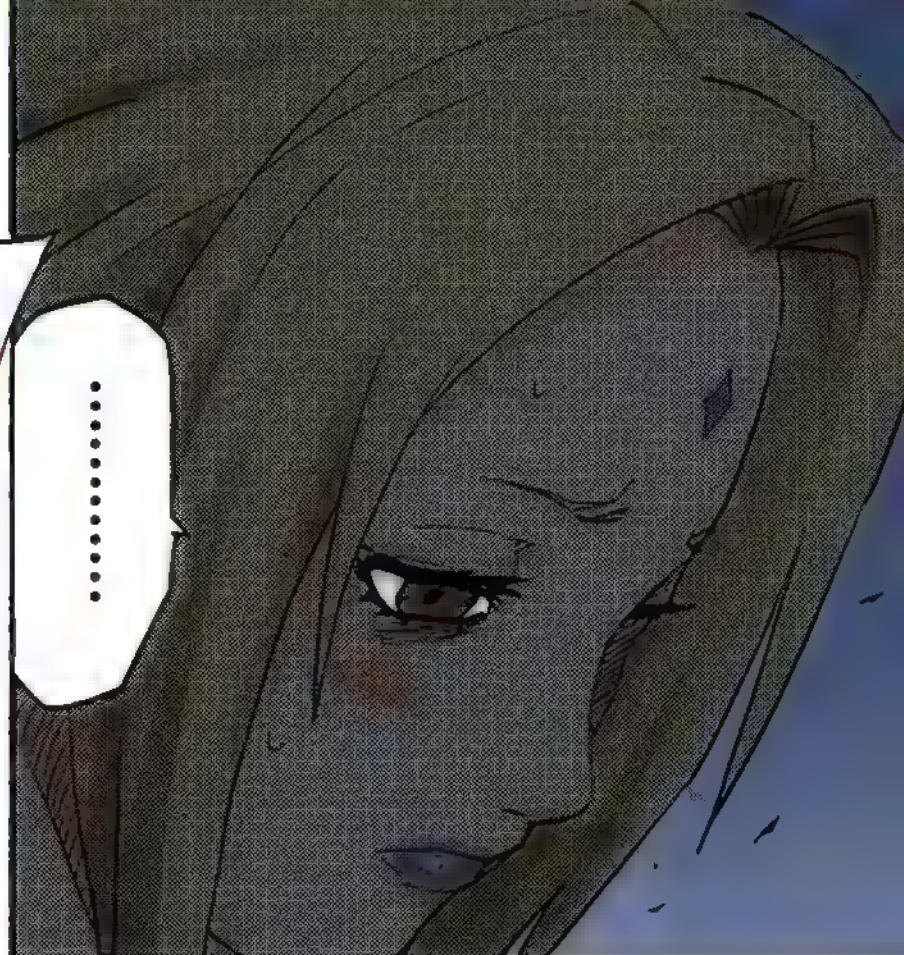
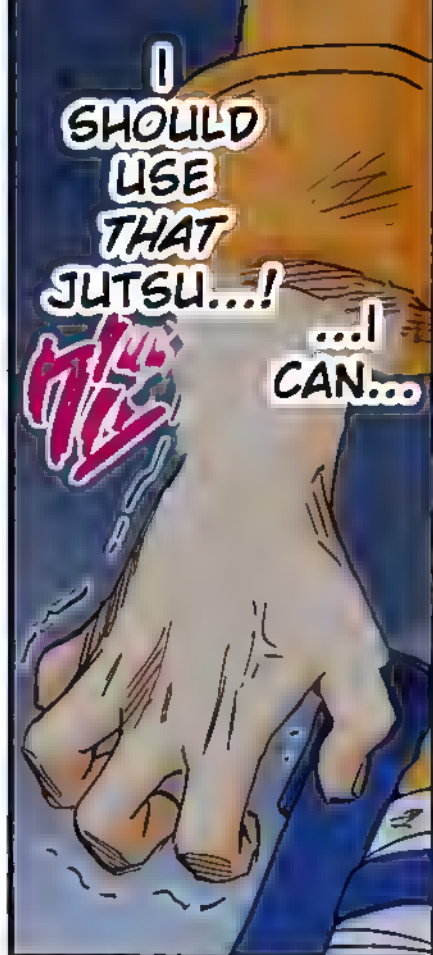


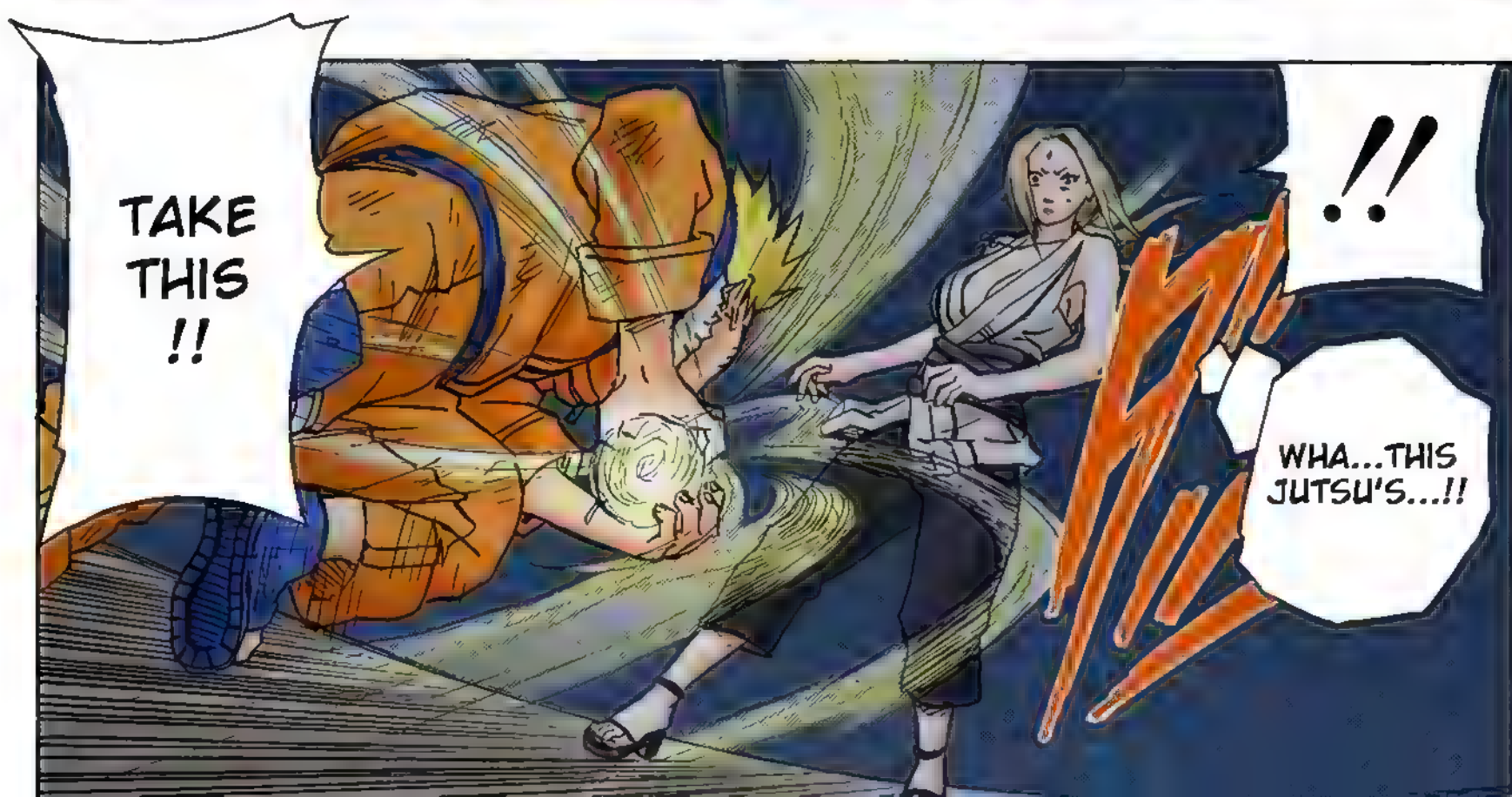
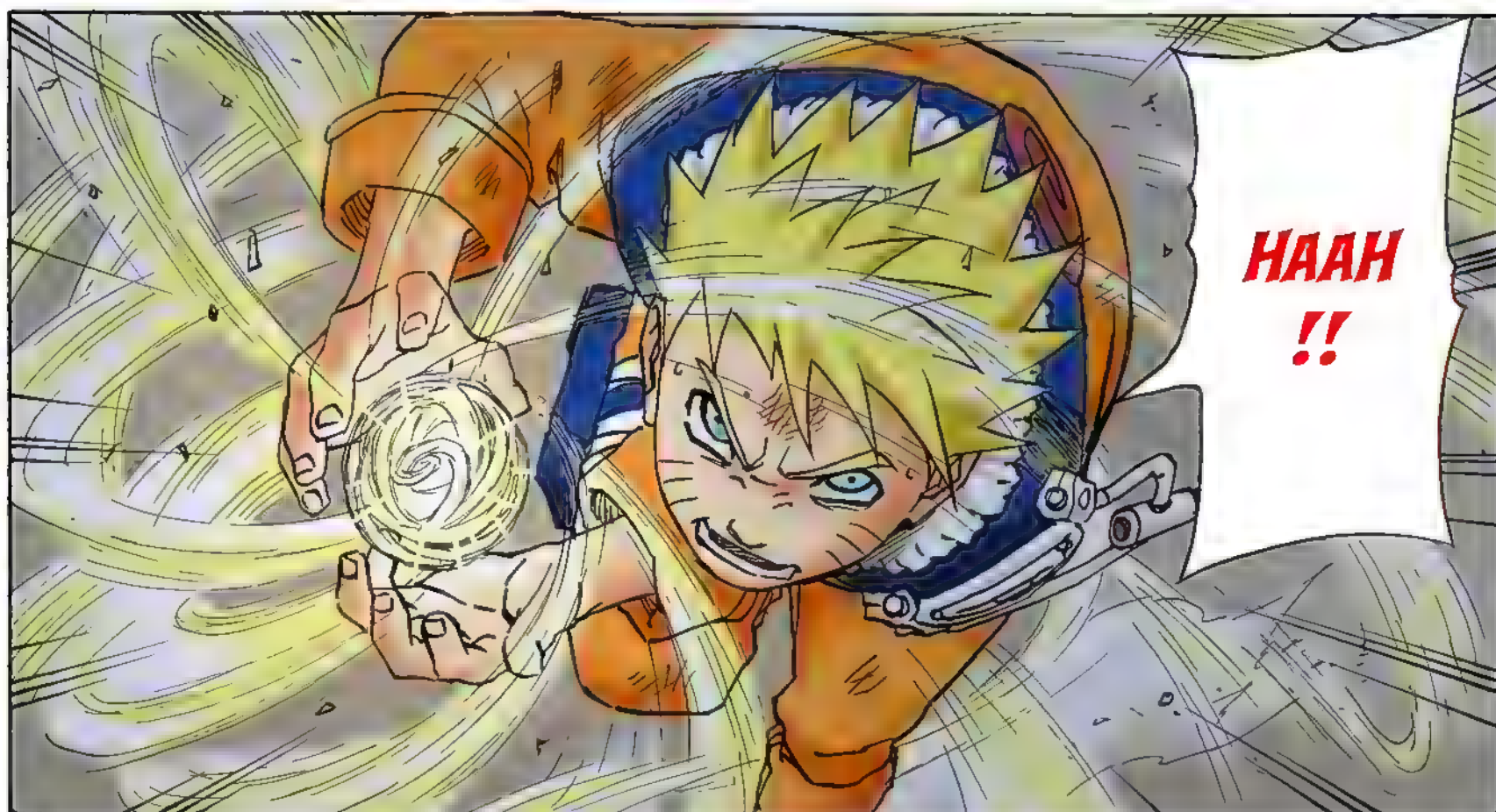
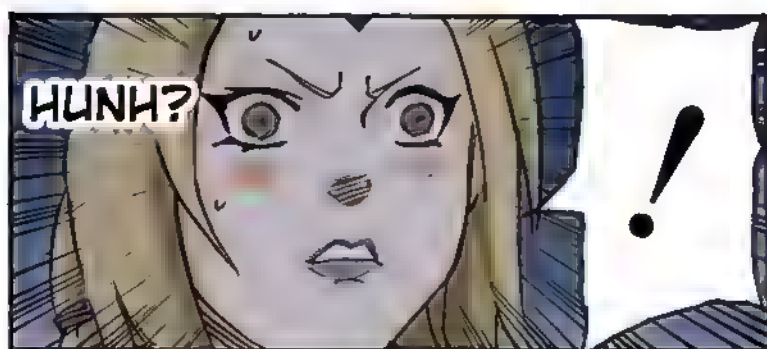
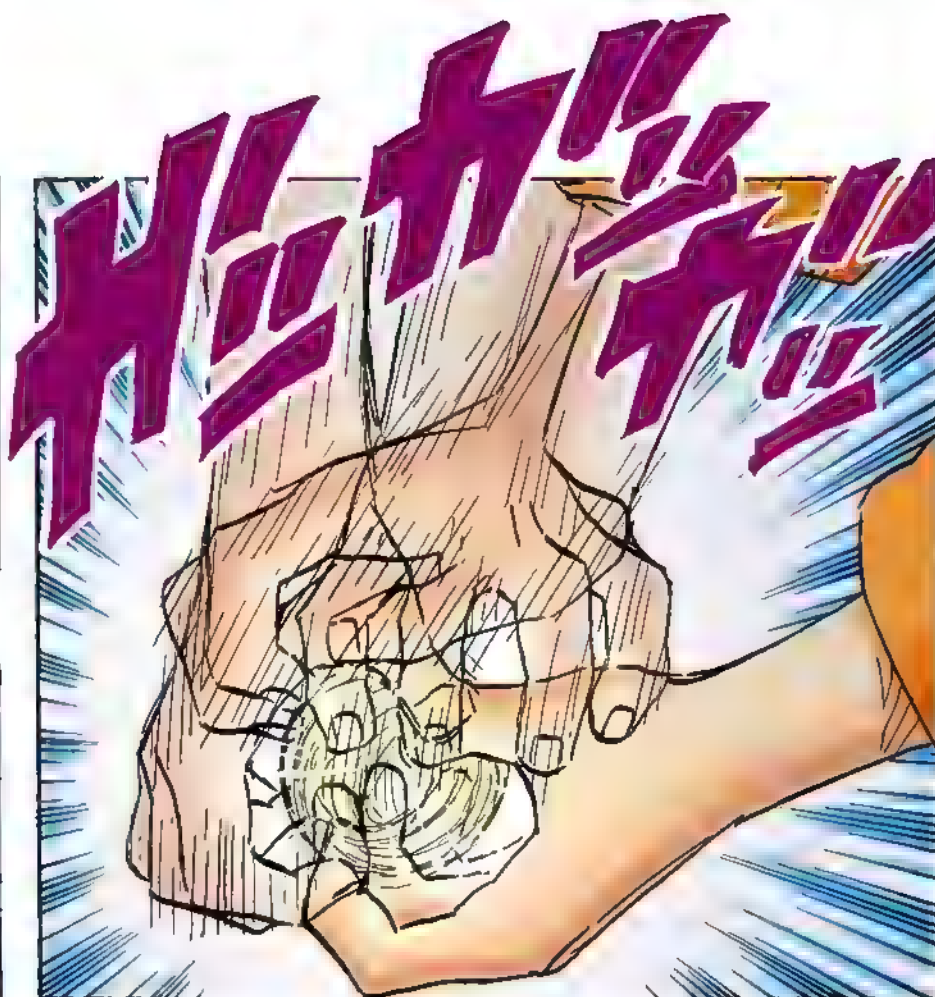








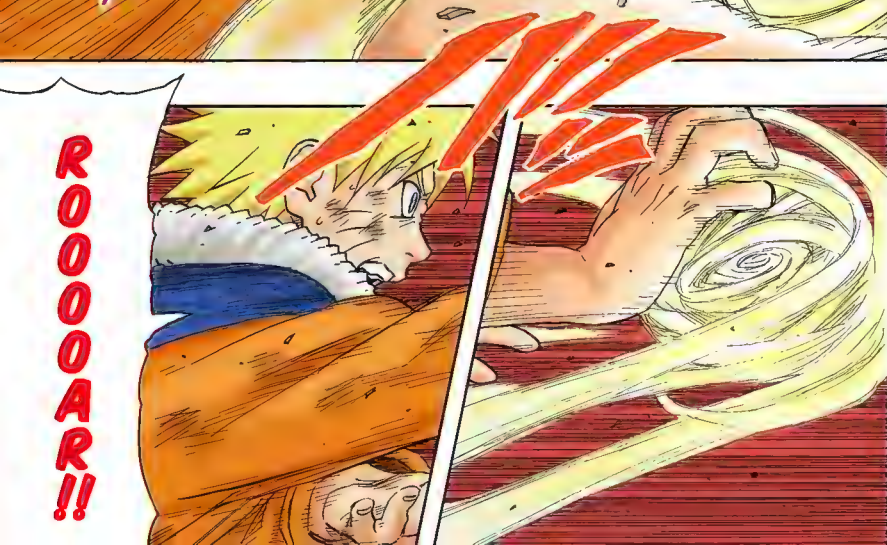
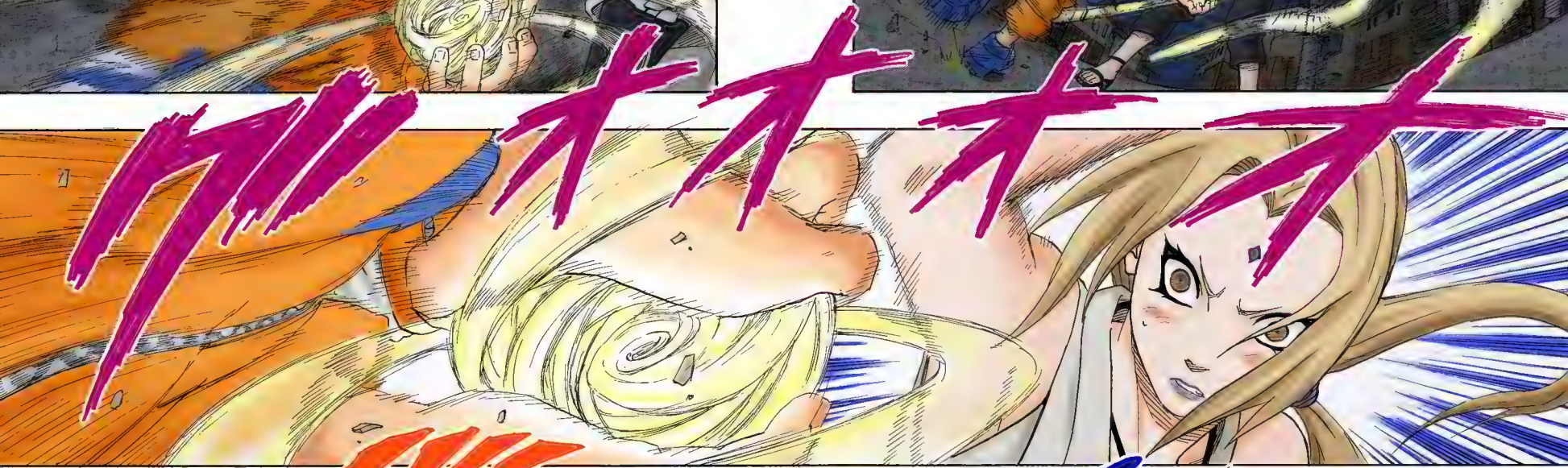
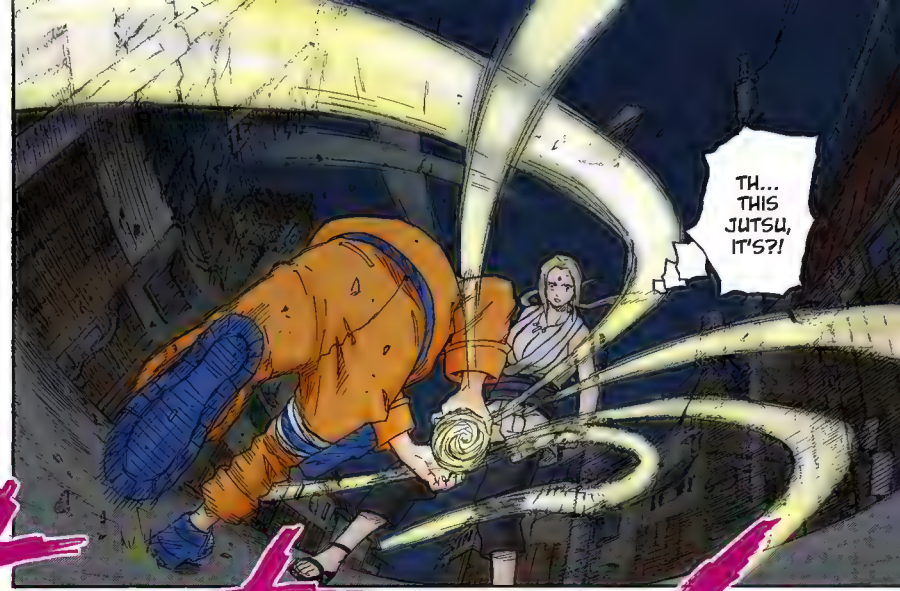




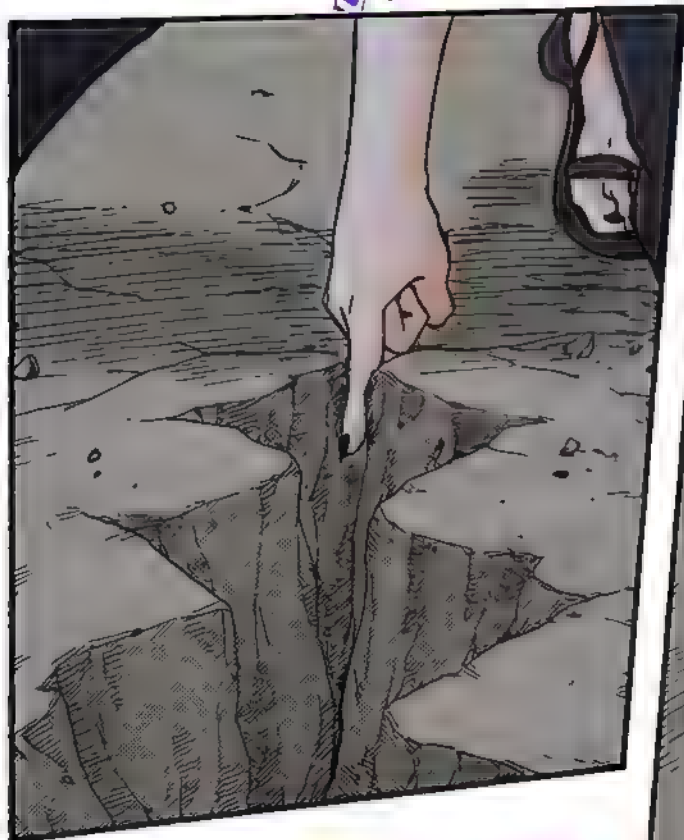
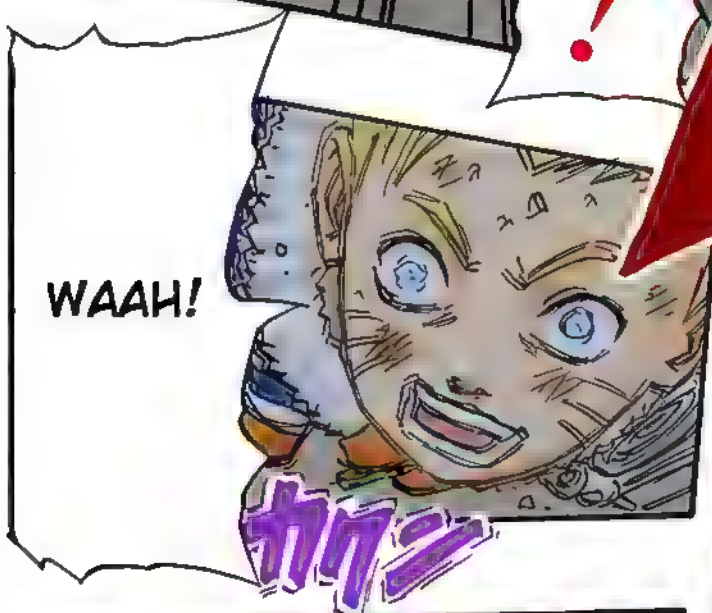
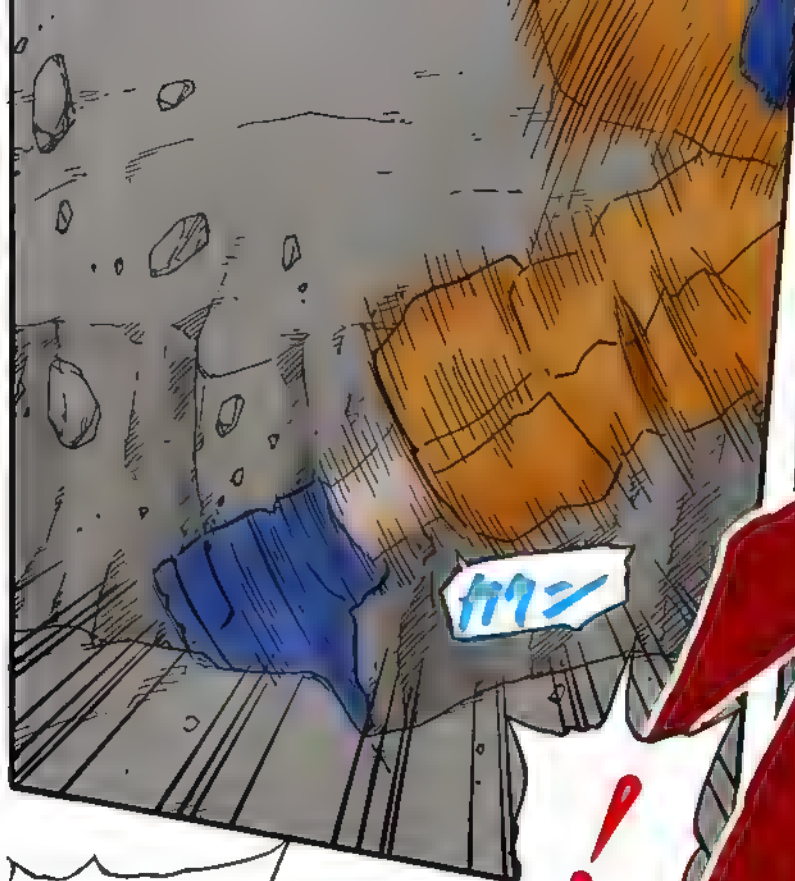
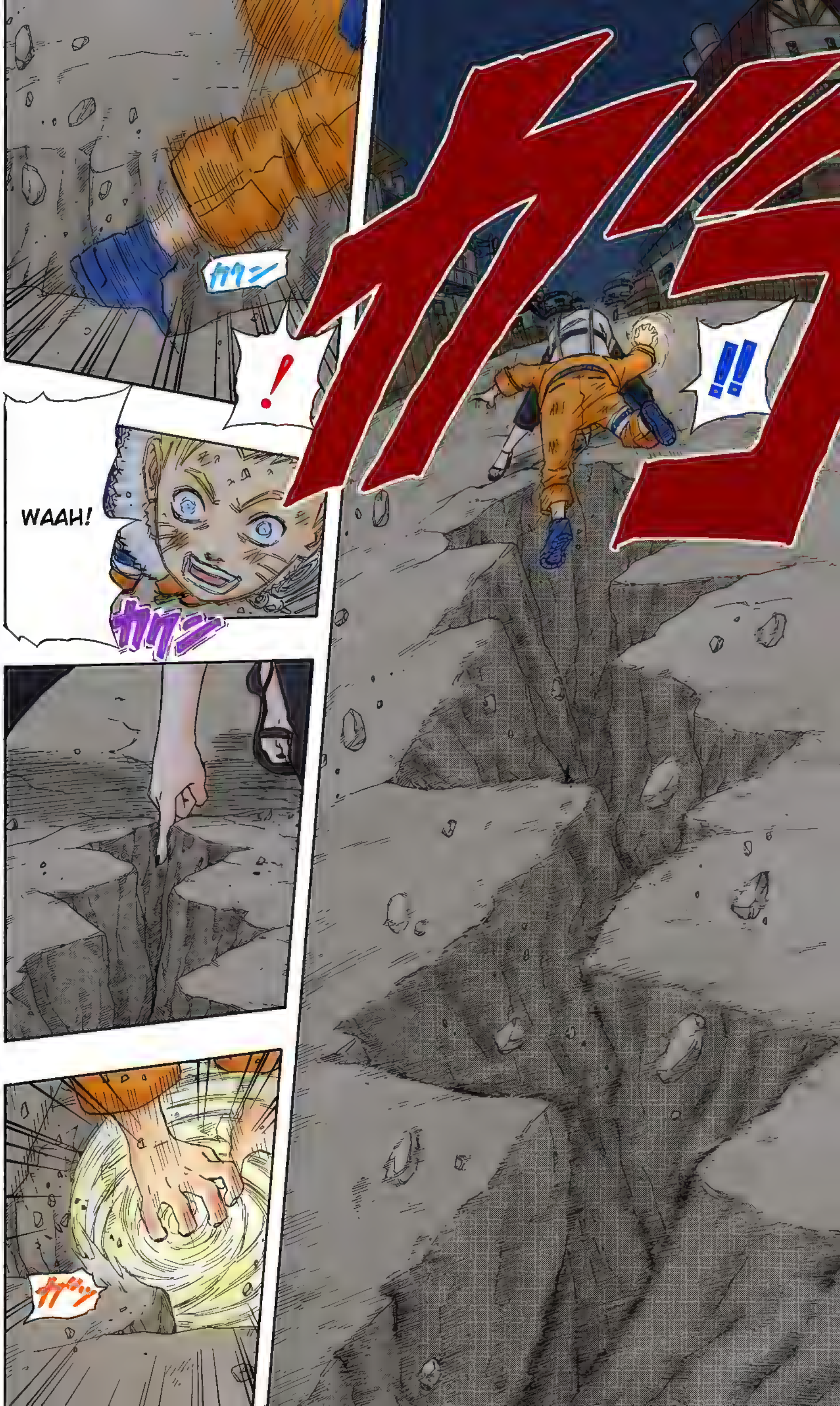
ナンバー

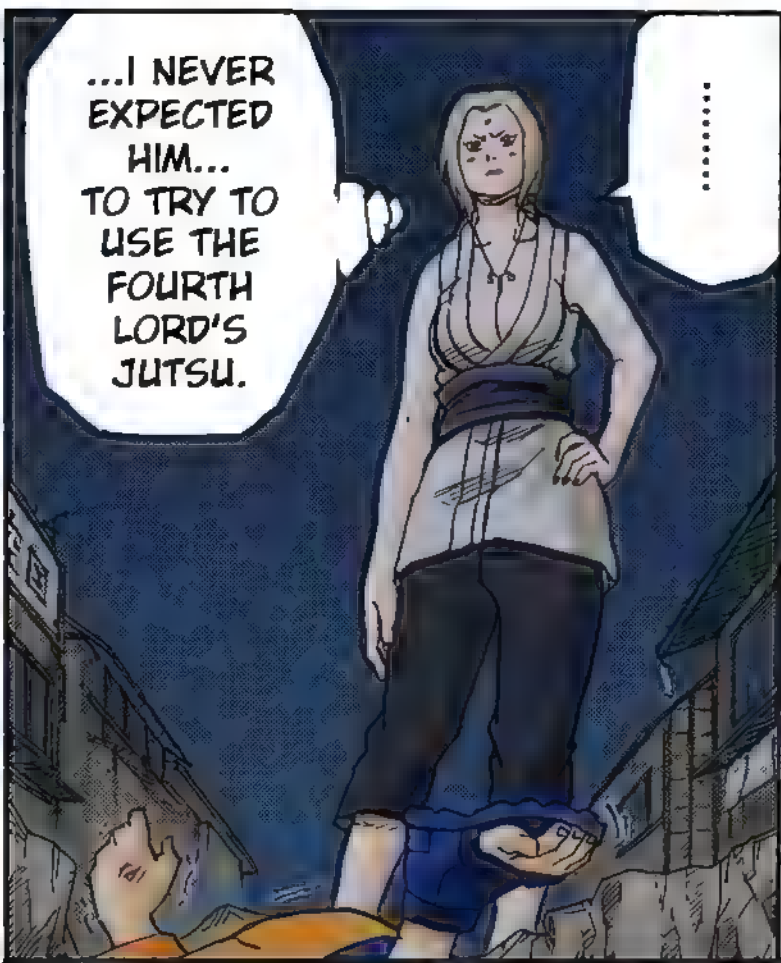
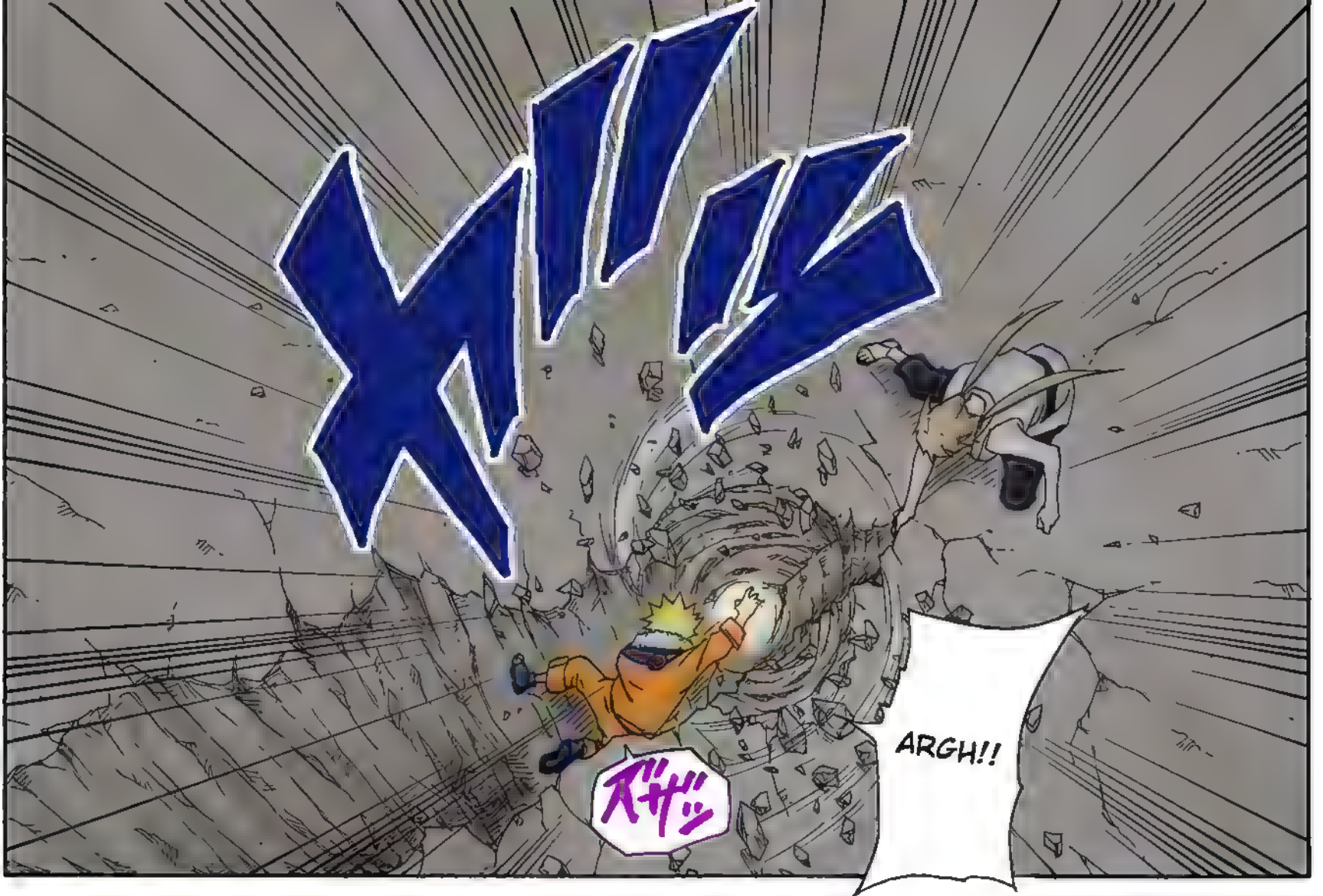
159 : THE WAGER...!!





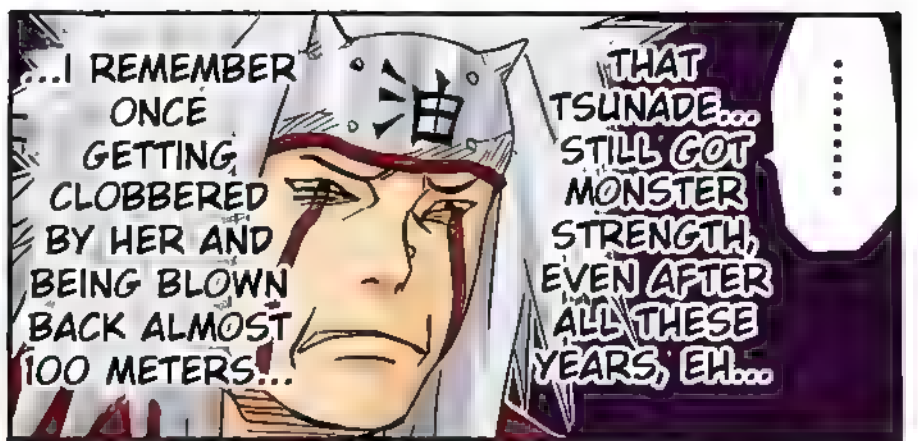
ROOOAR!!





...I NEVER EXPECTED HIM... TO TRY TO USE THE FOURTH LORD'S JUTSU.

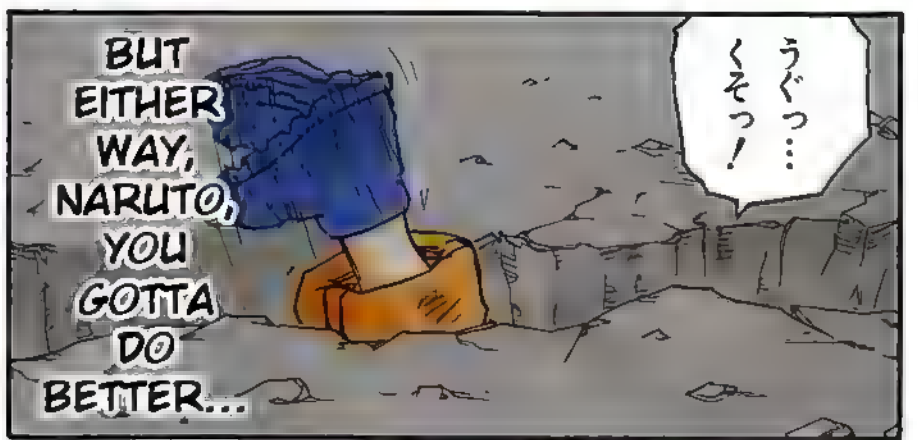
.....



...I REMEMBER ONCE GETTING CLOBBERED BY HER AND BEING BLOWN BACK ALMOST 100 METERS...

THAT TSUNADE... STILL GOT MONSTER STRENGTH, EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, EH...

.....



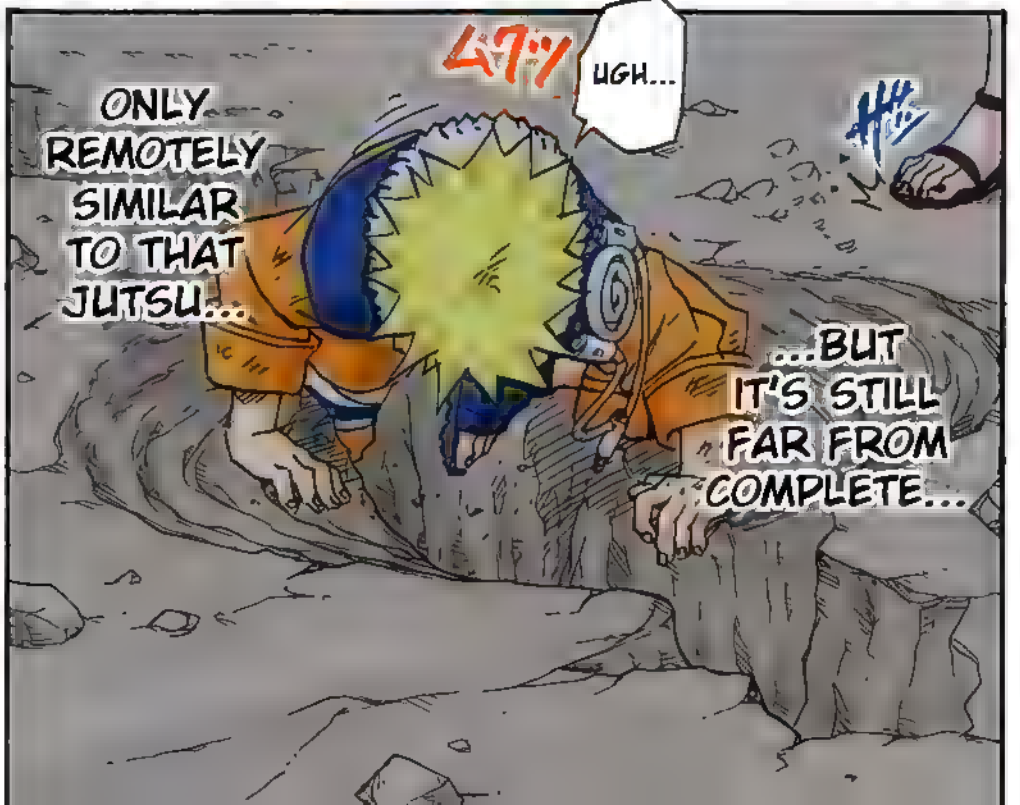
BUT EITHER WAY, NARUTO, YOU GOTTA DO BETTER...

うぐっ...
くそっ!



HACK... HACK!

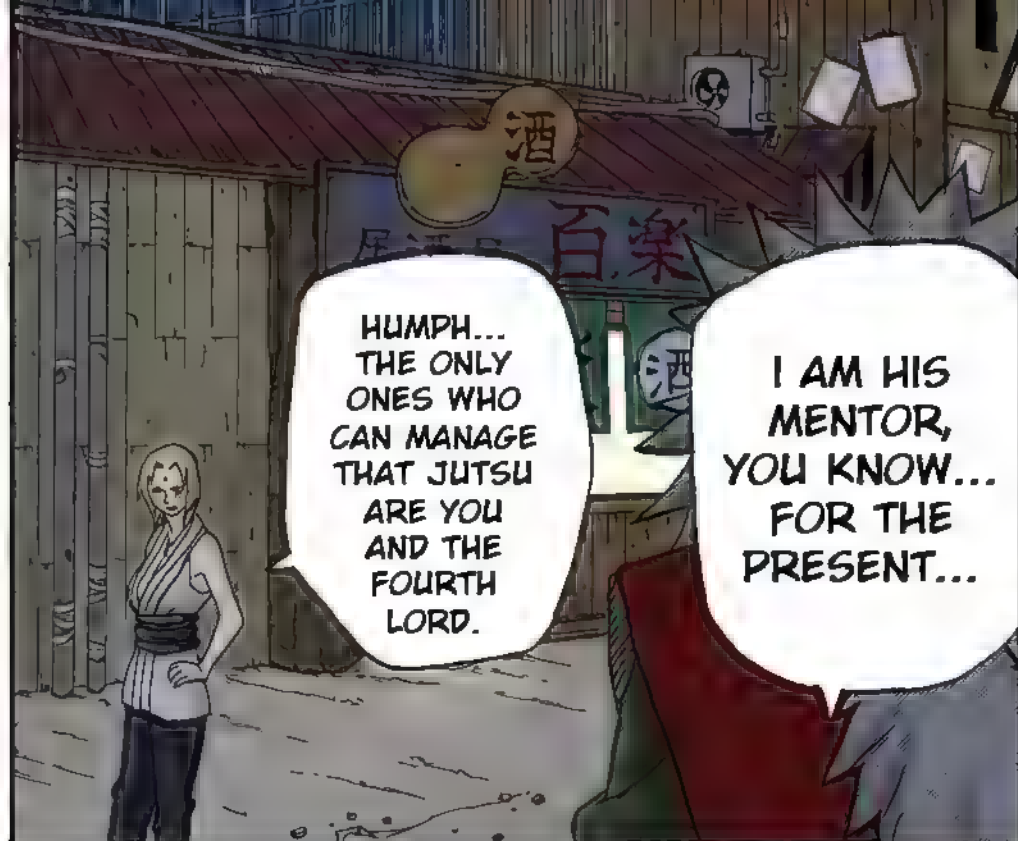
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?



ONLY REMOTELY SIMILAR TO THAT JUTSU...

UGH...

...BUT IT'S STILL FAR FROM COMPLETE...



HUMPH...
THE ONLY
ONES WHO
CAN MANAGE
THAT JUTSU
ARE YOU
AND THE
FOURTH
LORD.

I AM HIS
MENTOR,
YOU KNOW...
FOR THE
PRESENT...

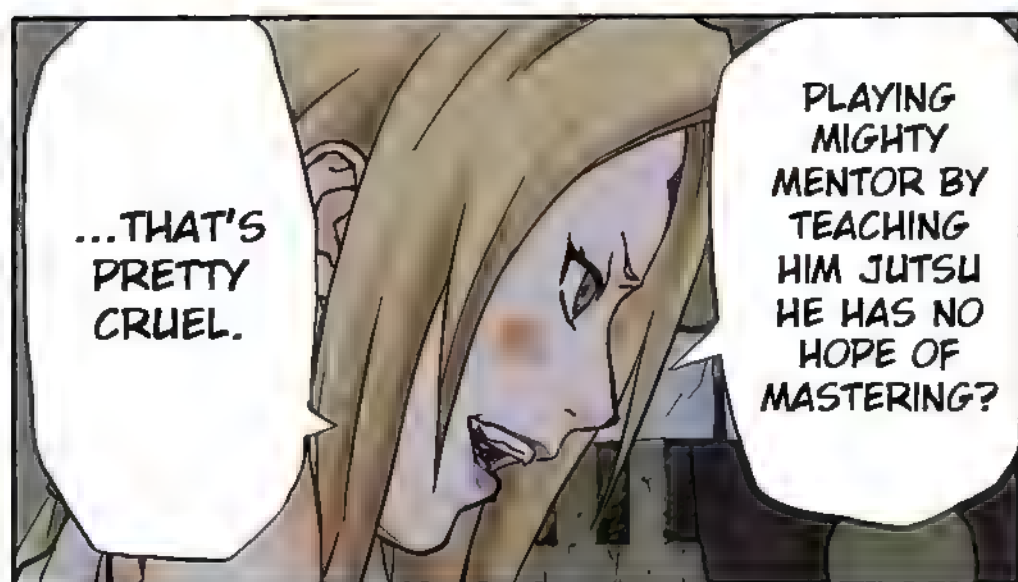


WHO TAUGHT
HIM THE
RASENGAN?!

JIRAIYA,
WAS IT
YOU?

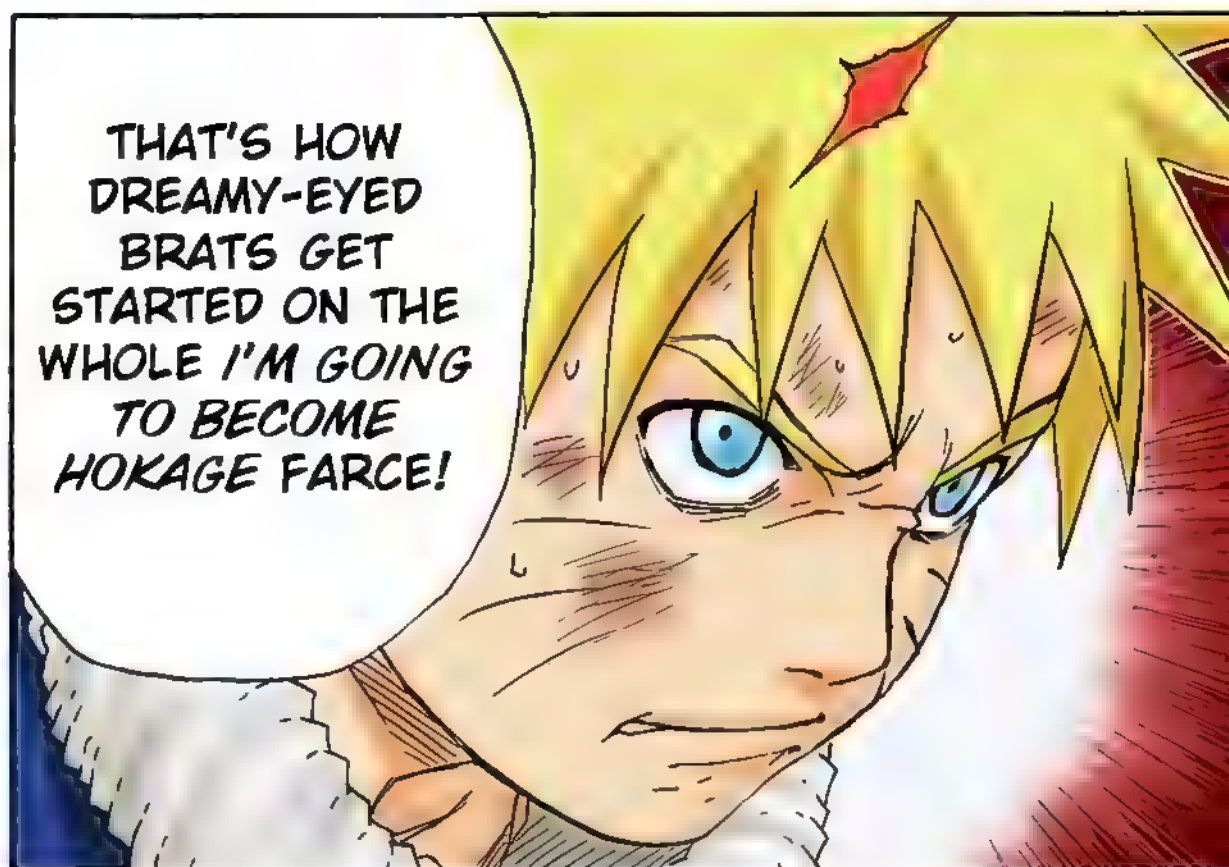
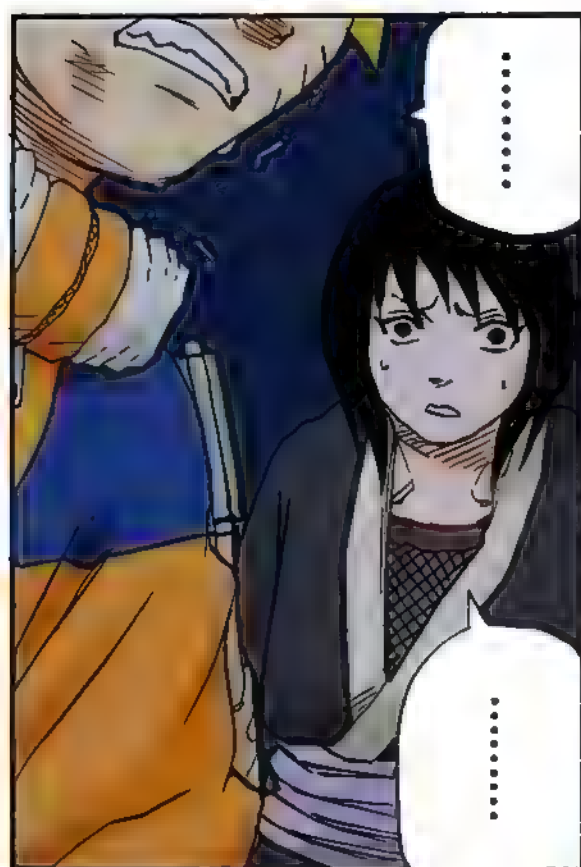


RASENGAN...?!



...THAT'S
PRETTY
CRUEL.

PLAYING
MIGHTY
MENTOR BY
TEACHING
HIM JUTSU
HE HAS NO
HOPE OF
MASTERING?



THAT'S HOW
DREAMY-EYED
BRATS GET
STARTED ON THE
WHOLE I'M GOING
TO BECOME
HOKAGE FARCE!

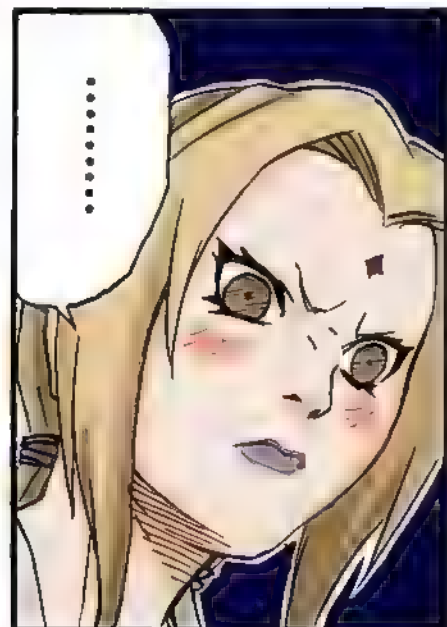


**SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!!**

**IT'S NOT
A FARCE!!**



**GIVE ME
THREE DAYS,
AND I'LL
MASTER THIS
JUTSU FOR
YOU!!**



HEH!



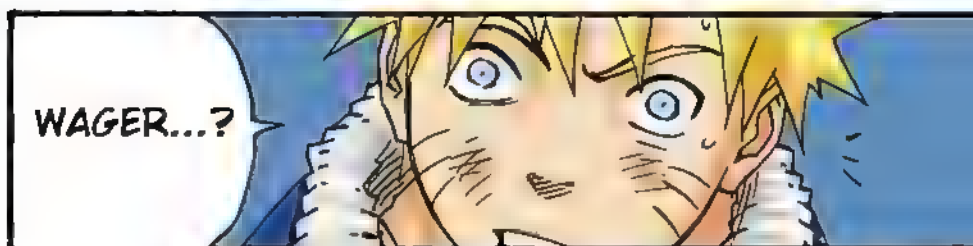
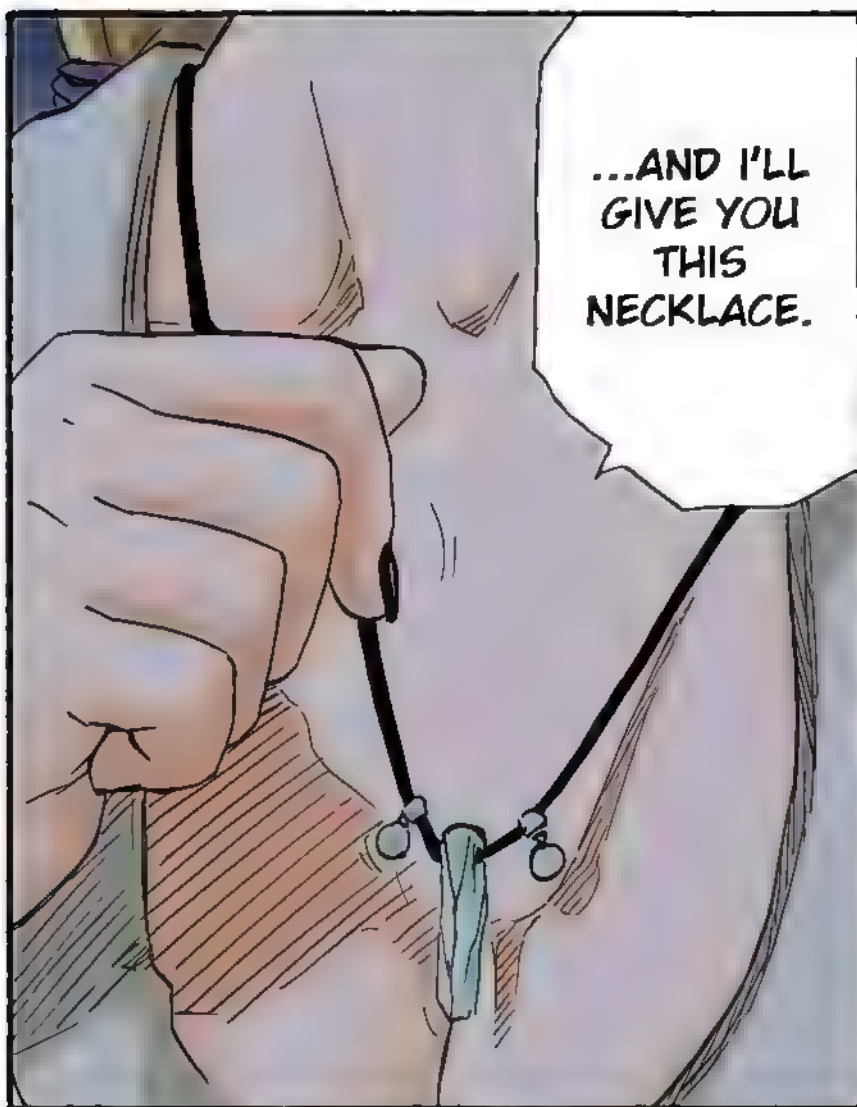
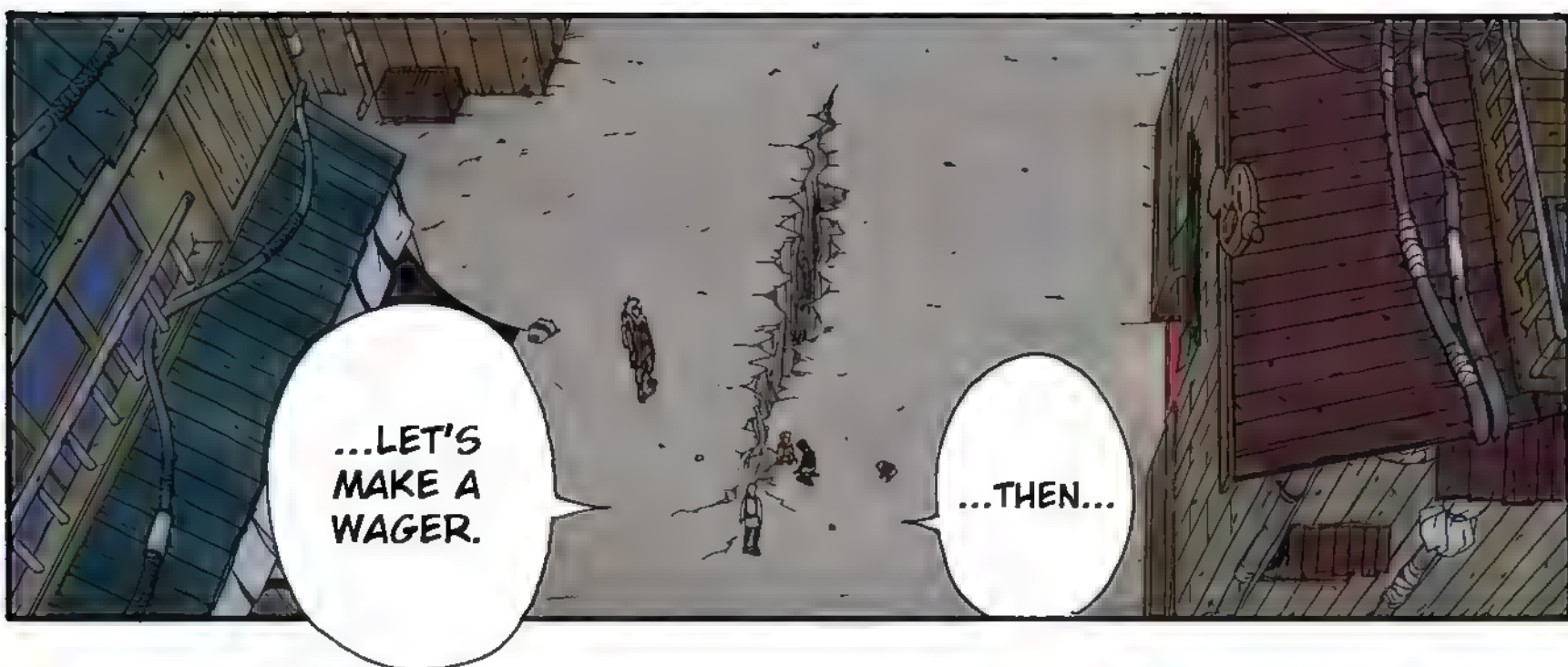
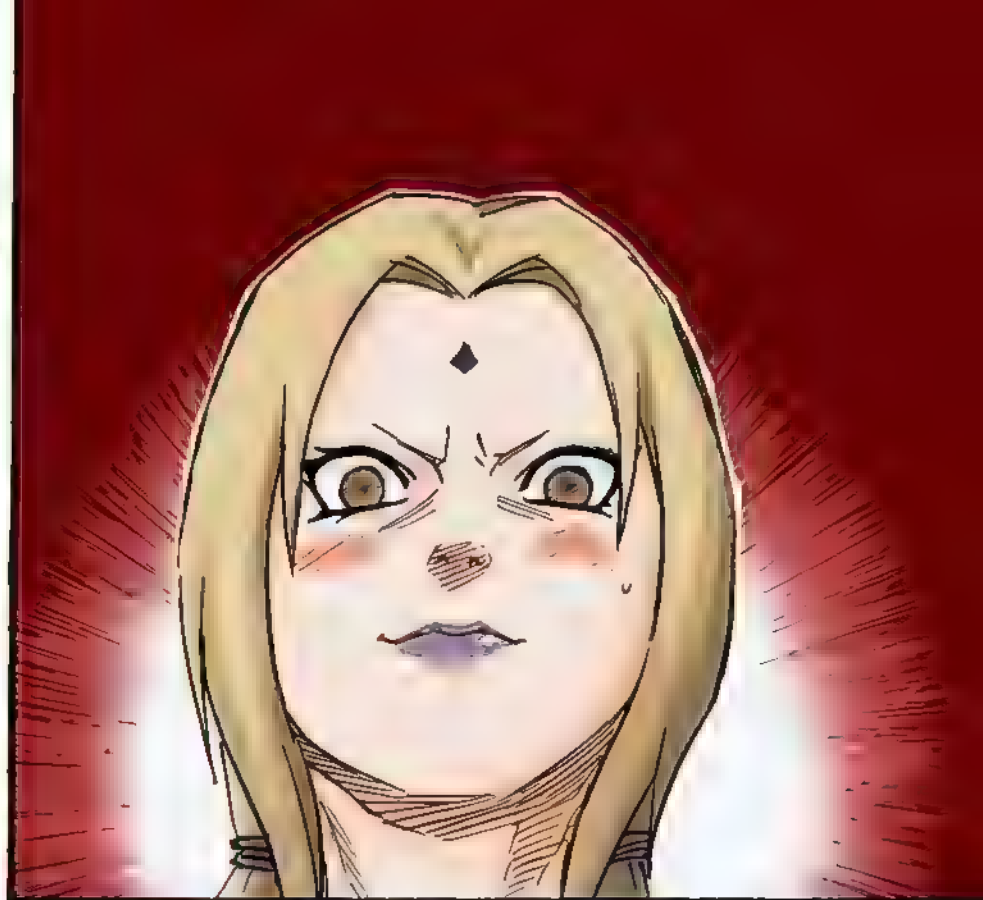
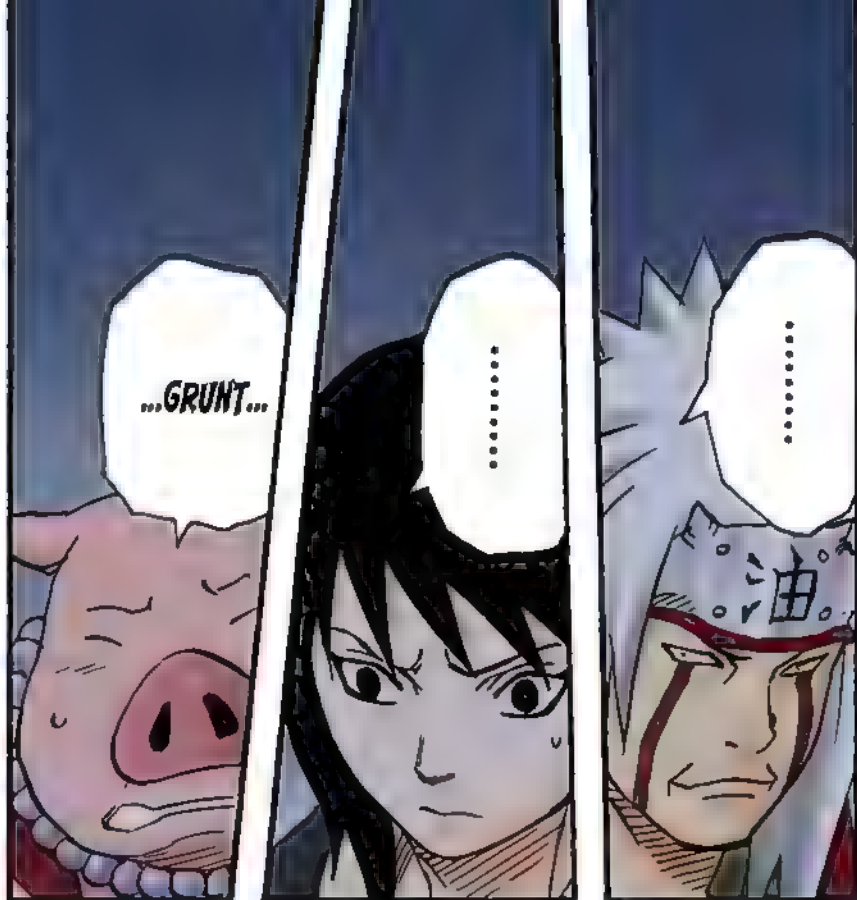
**BUT A MAN
DOESN'T
BREAK HIS
WORD, YOU
KNOW!**

**FEH...
NICE
WORDS,
BRAT...**

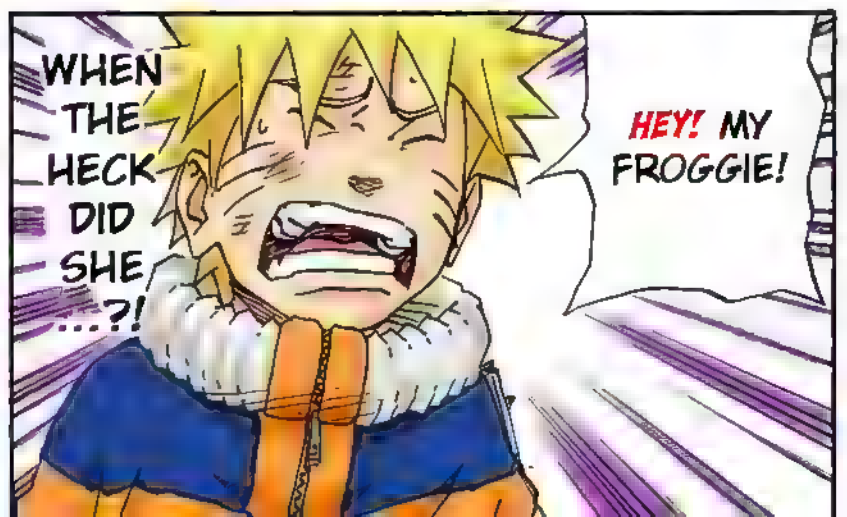
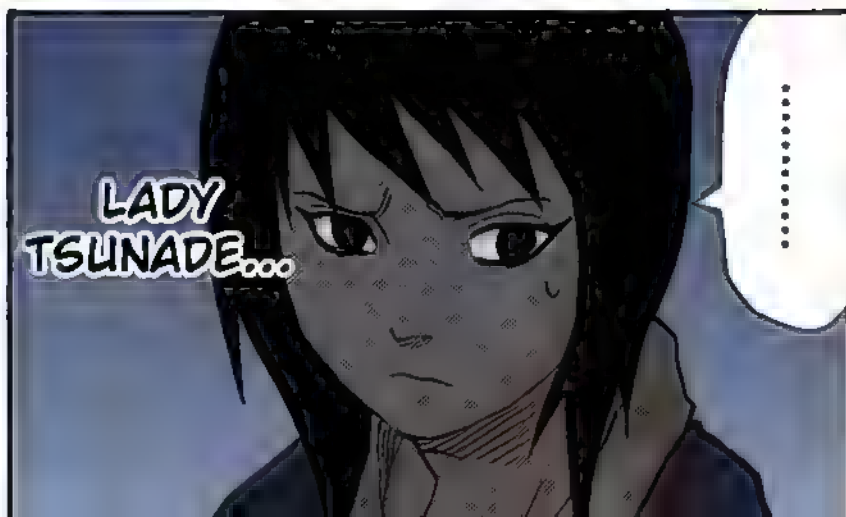
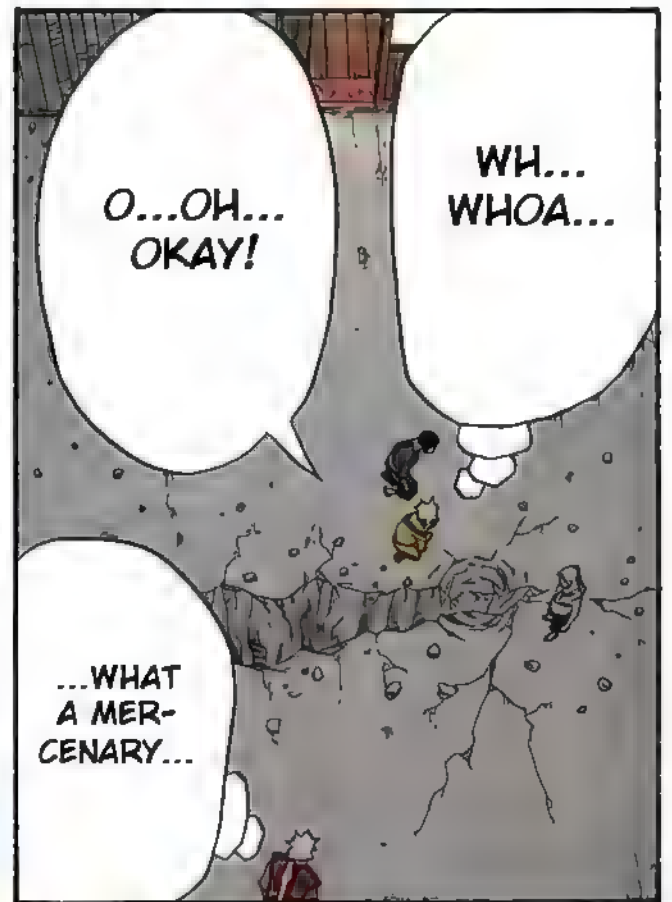
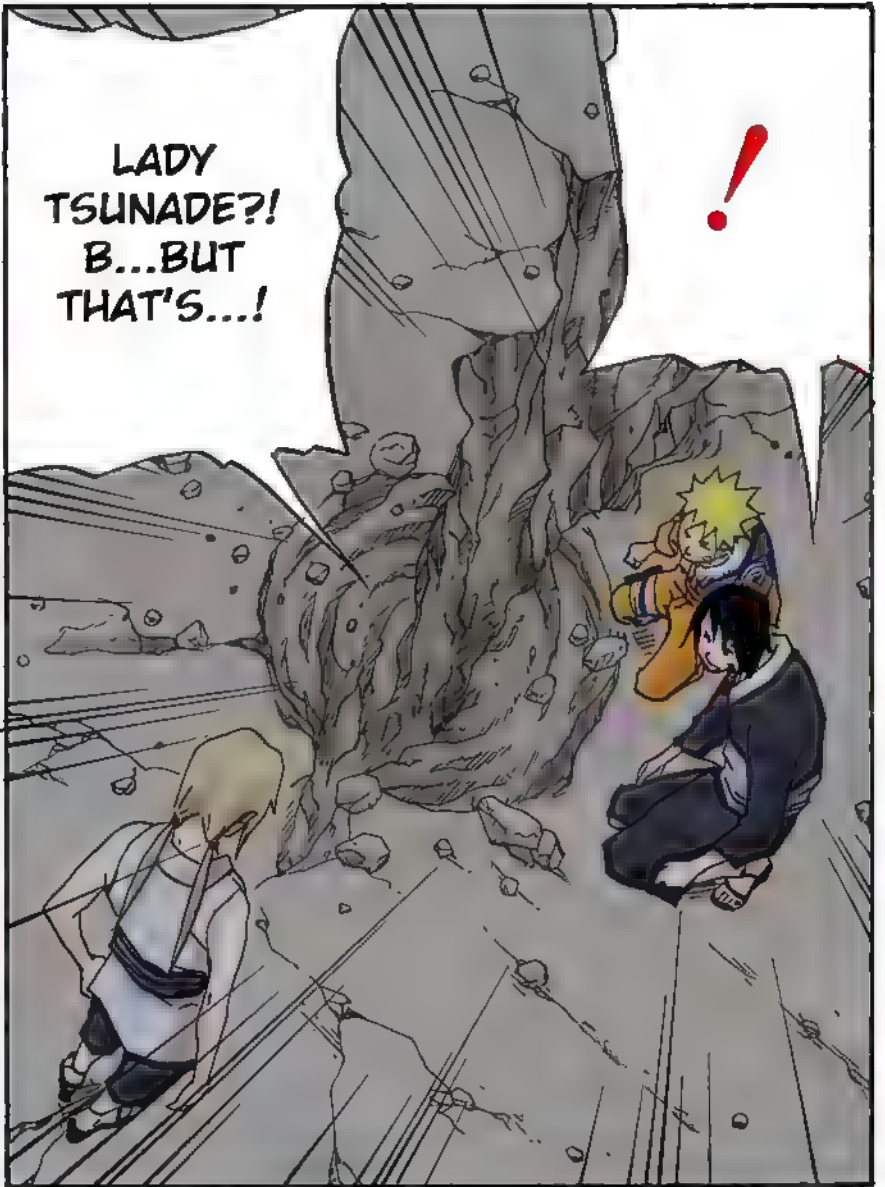
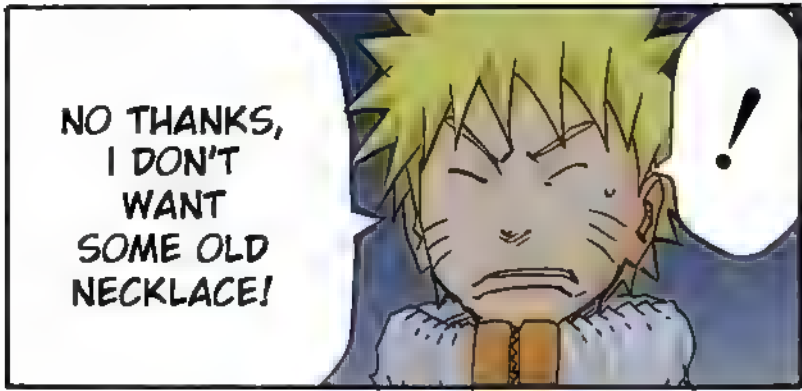


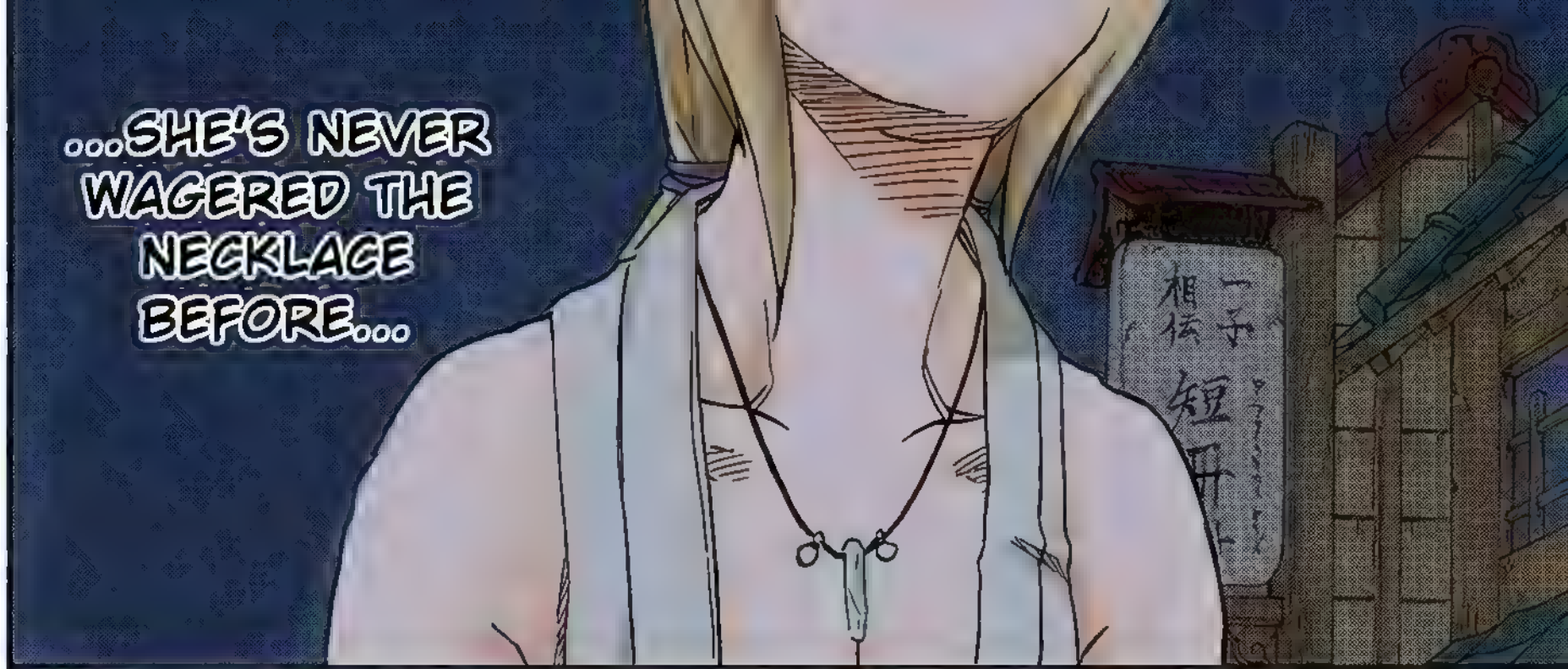
**...THAT'S MY
SHINOBI
WAY!**

**I NEVER
GO BACK
ON MY
WORD...**



IF YOU MANAGE TO MASTER THIS JUTSU IN THAT TIME, I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE WORTHY OF BECOMING HOKAGE...

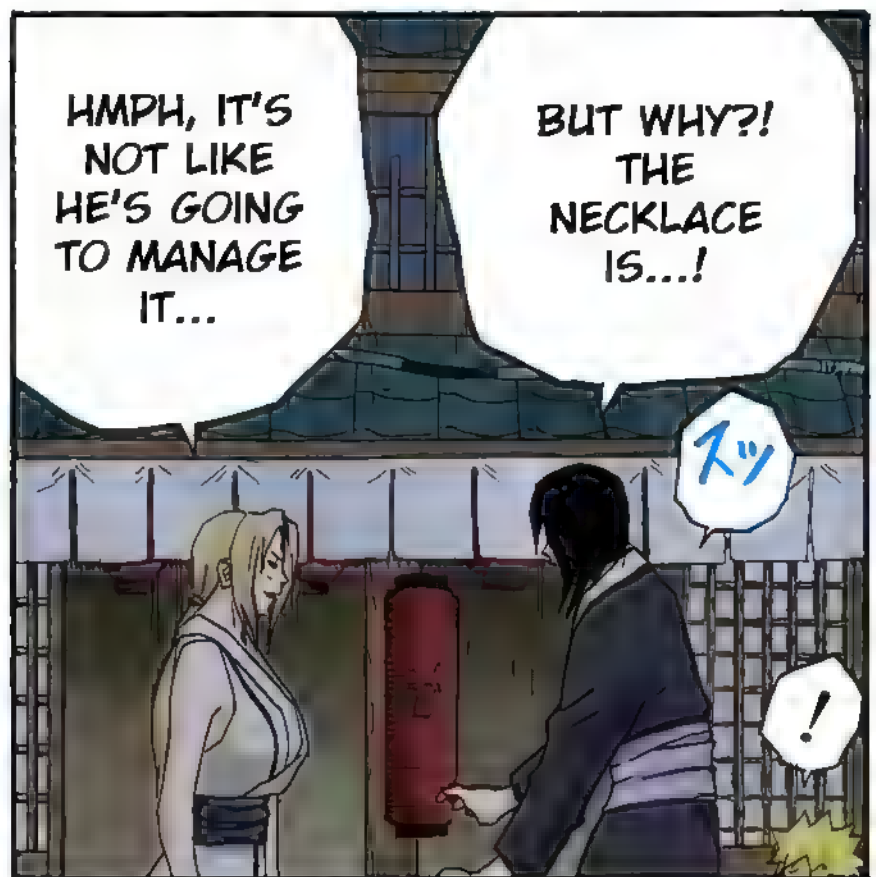




...SHE'S NEVER
WAGERED THE
NECKLACE
BEFORE...



LET'S GO,
SHIZUNE!



HMPH, IT'S
NOT LIKE
HE'S GOING
TO MANAGE
IT...

BUT WHY?!
THE
NECKLACE
IS...!

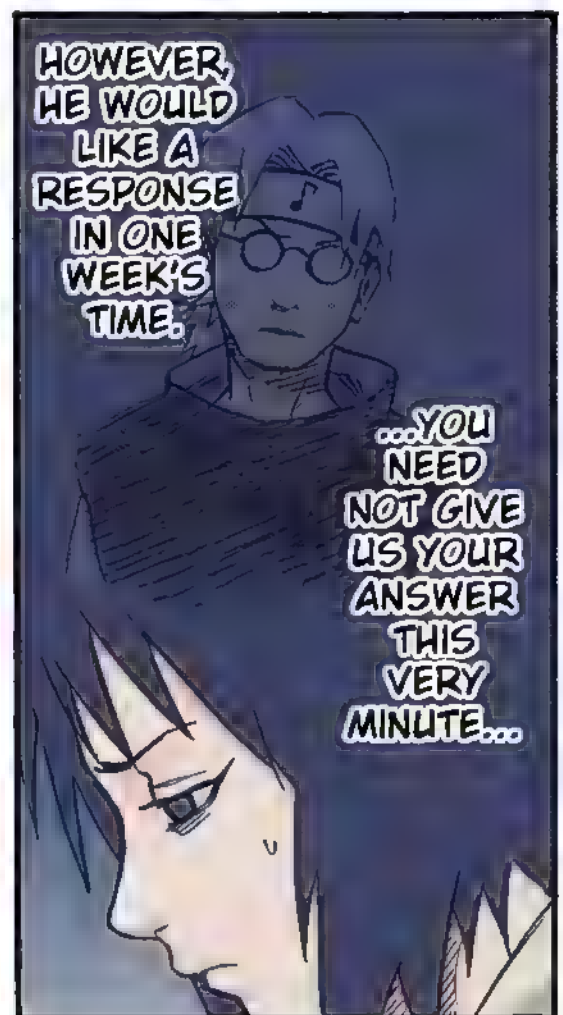


FOR
OLD
TIME'S
SAKE...

TSUNADE...
WON'T
YOU COME
DRINKING
A BIT
LONGER
WITH ME?

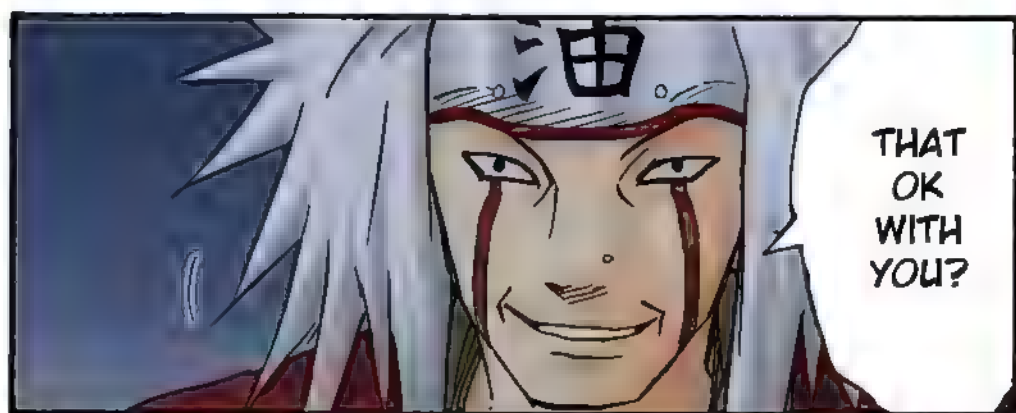


.....



HOWEVER,
HE WOULD
LIKE A
RESPONSE
IN ONE
WEEK'S
TIME.

...YOU
NEED
NOT GIVE
US YOUR
ANSWER
THIS
VERY
MINUTE...

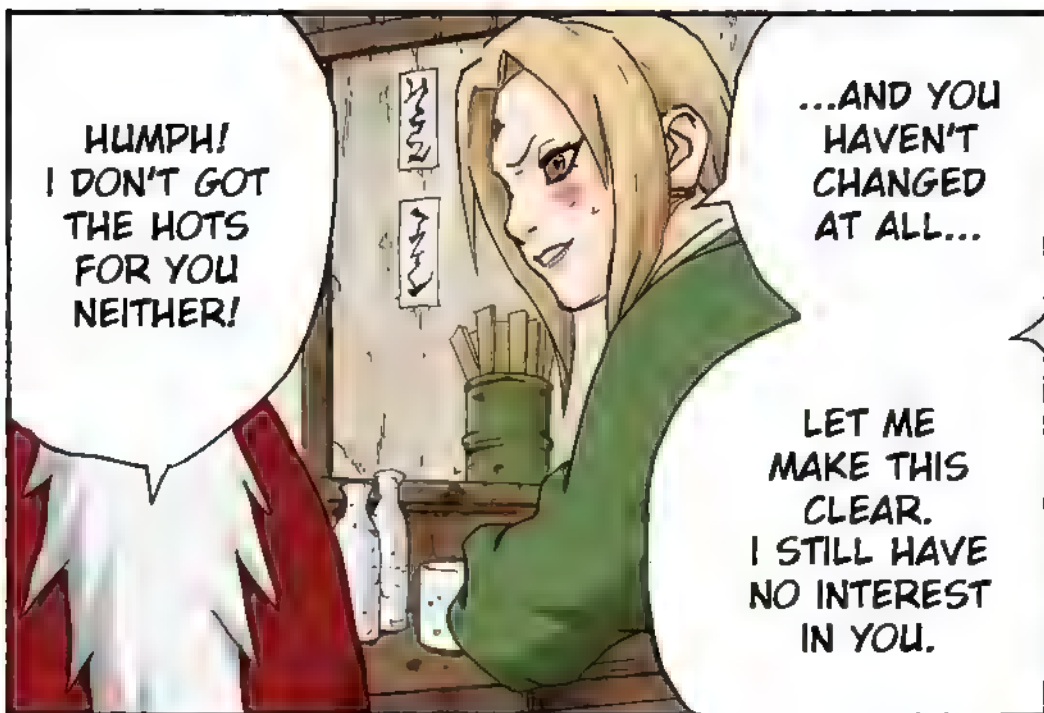




THERE
YA GO!

イト

.....



HUMPH!
I DON'T GOT
THE HOTS
FOR YOU
NEITHER!

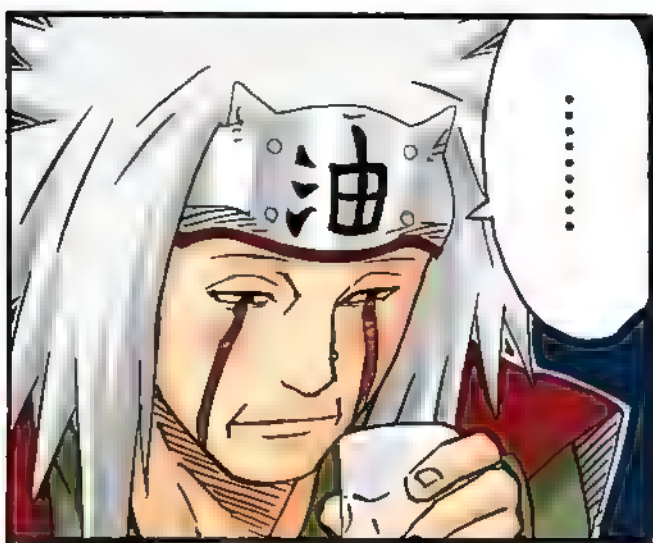
...AND YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL...

LET ME
MAKE THIS
CLEAR.
I STILL HAVE
NO INTEREST
IN YOU.



キラ
キラ

MAN...YOU'VE
GOTTEN EVEN
PRETTIER THAN
THE LAST TIME
I SAW YOU...



.....



.....



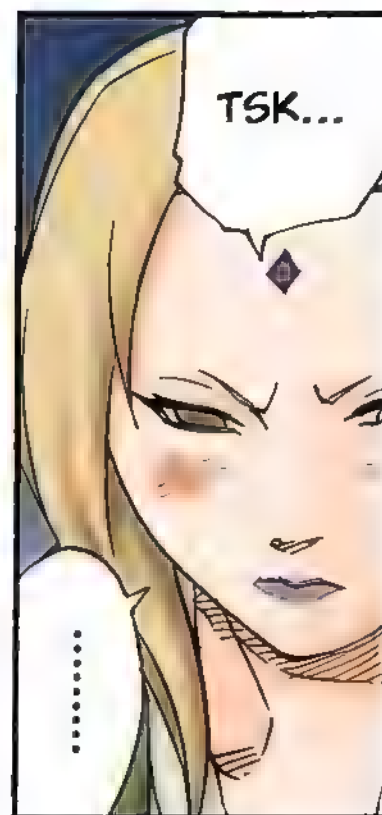
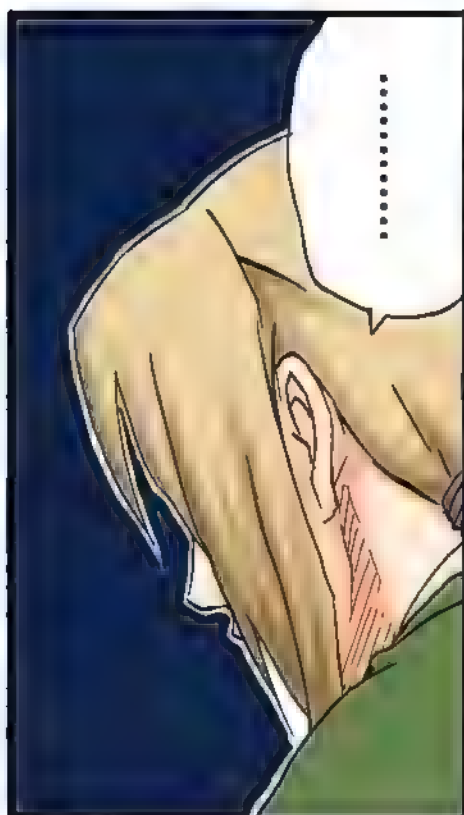
.....

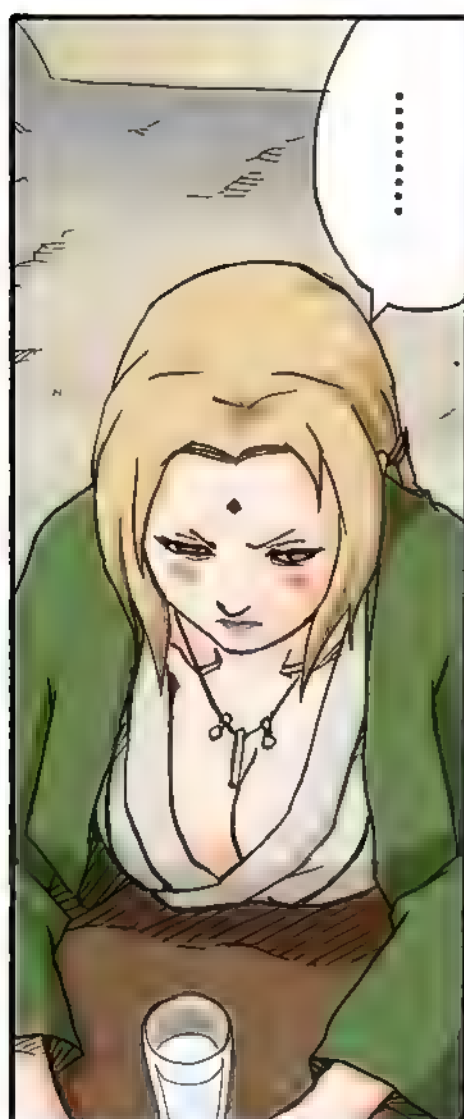
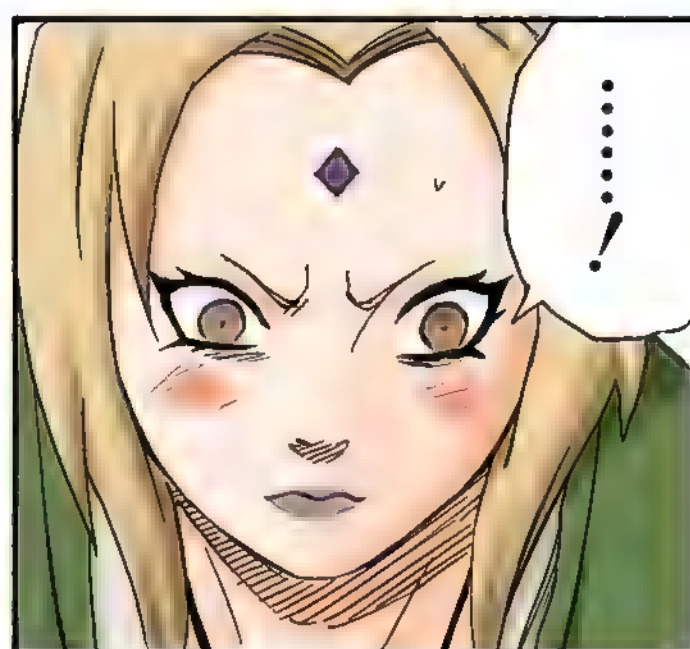


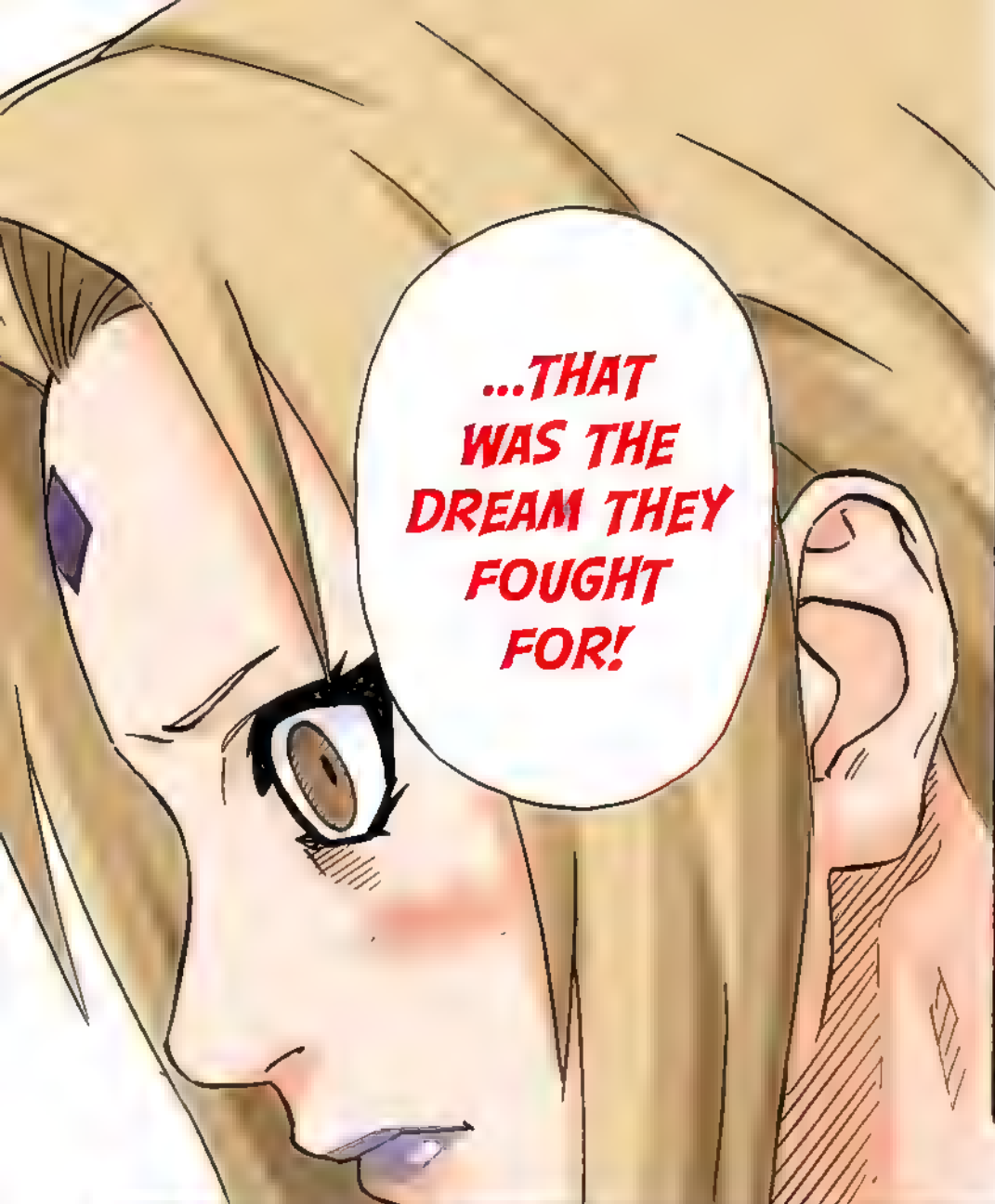
...WHAT'D
YOU JUST
SAY?!

ESPECIALLY
SINCE
YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
LIKE AN
OLD
WOMAN
NOW...

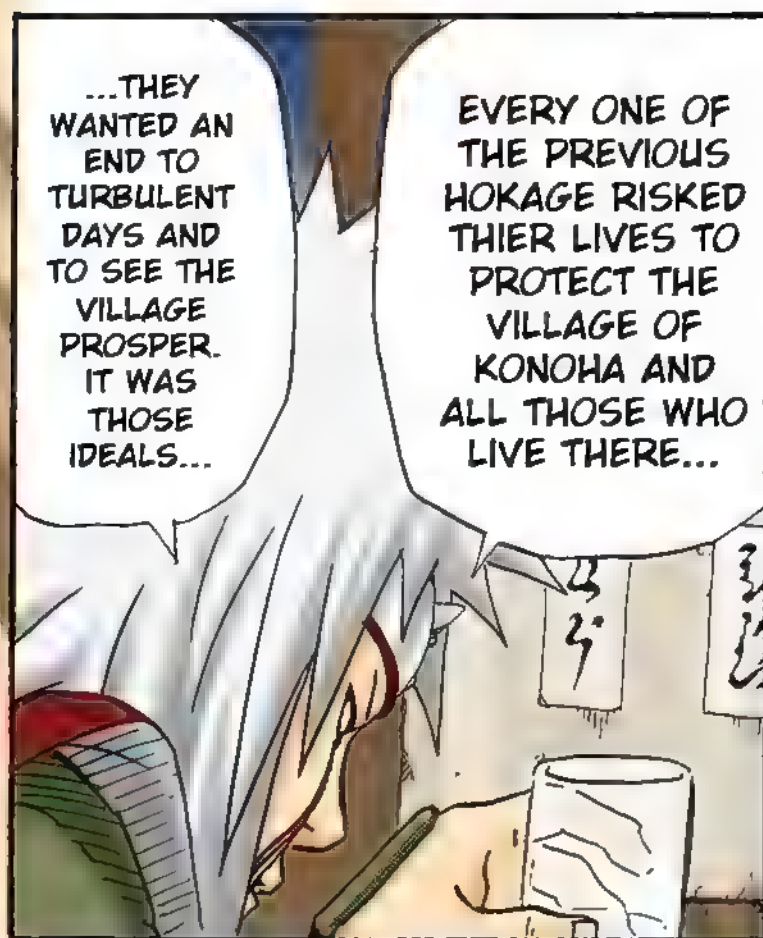
NOTHING...





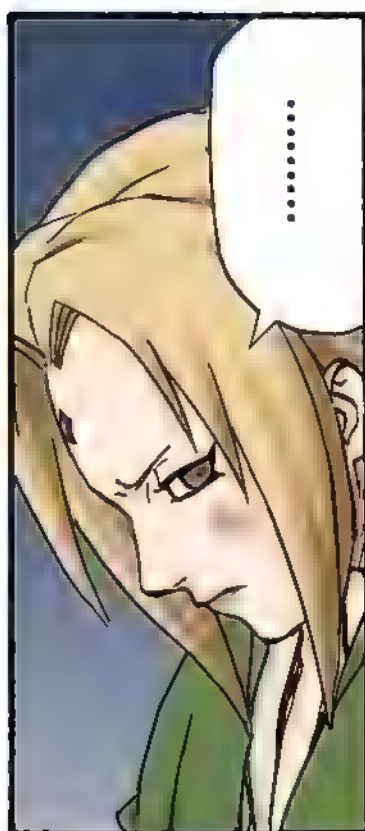


**...THAT
WAS THE
DREAM THEY
FOUGHT
FOR!**



...THEY
WANTED AN
END TO
TURBULENT
DAYS AND
TO SEE THE
VILLAGE
PROSPER.
IT WAS
THOSE
IDEALS...

EVERY ONE OF
THE PREVIOUS
HOKAGE RISKED
THIER LIVES TO
PROTECT THE
VILLAGE OF
KONOHGA AND
ALL THOSE WHO
LIVE THERE...



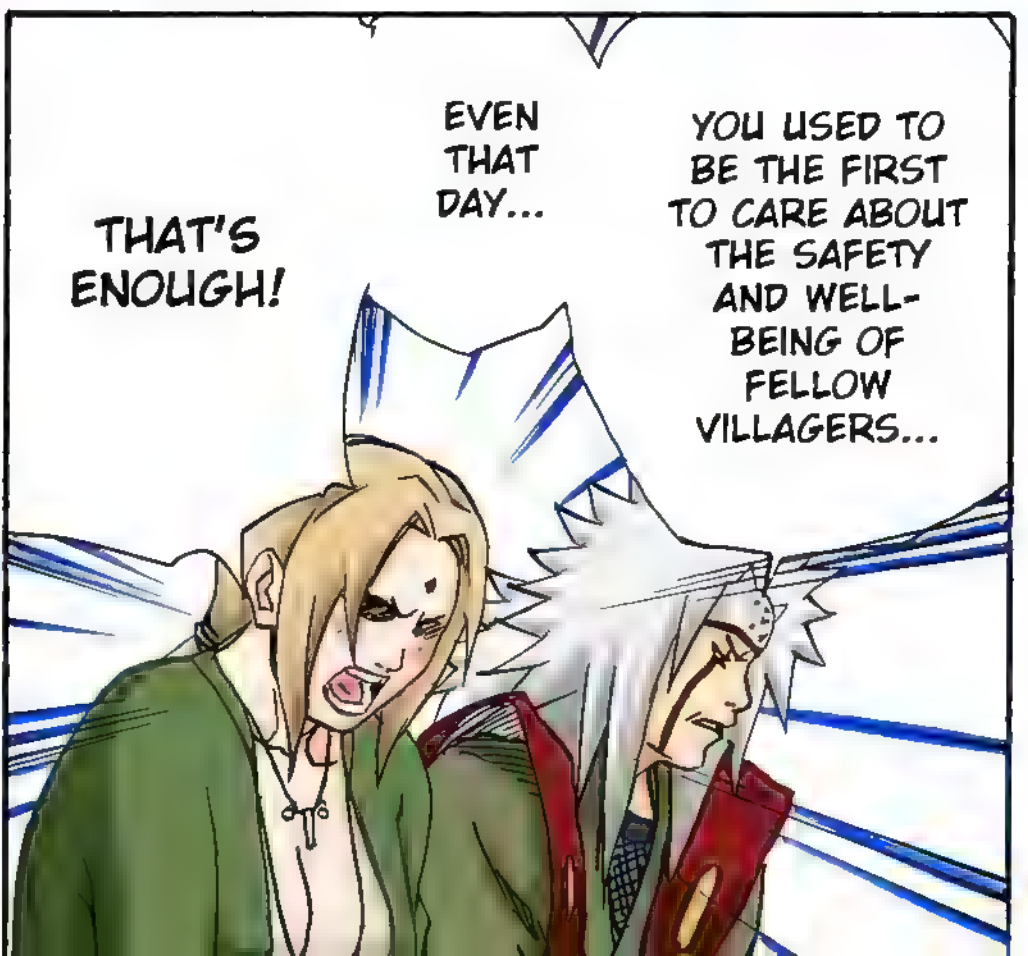
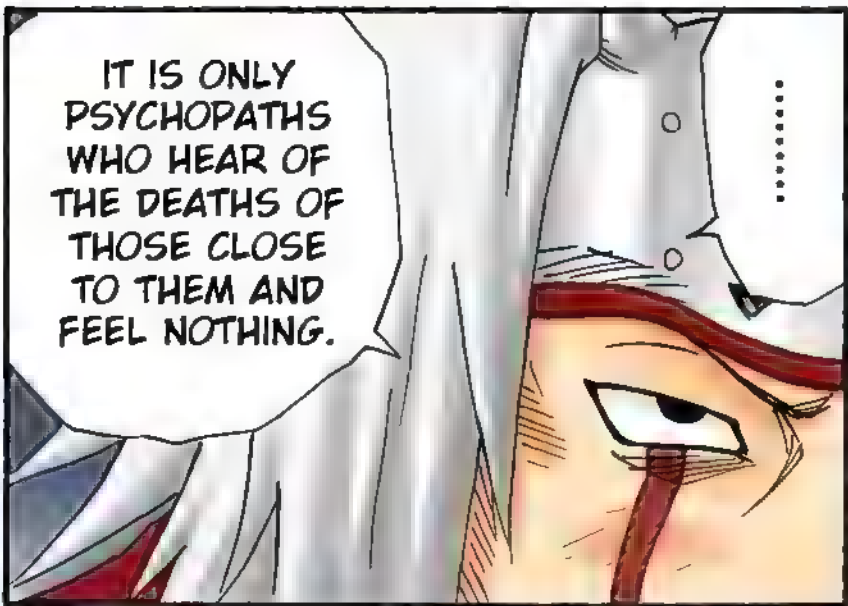
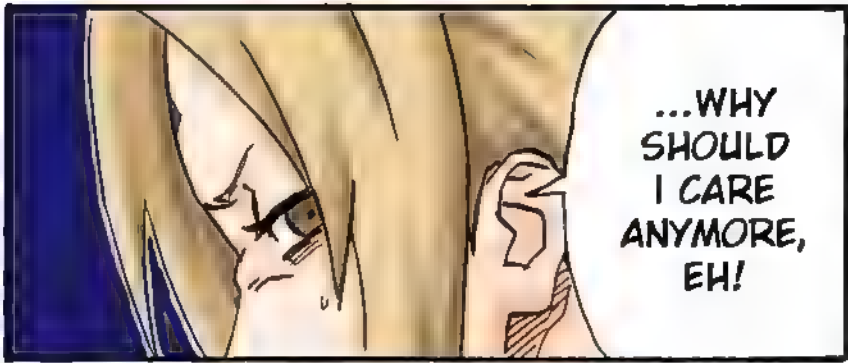
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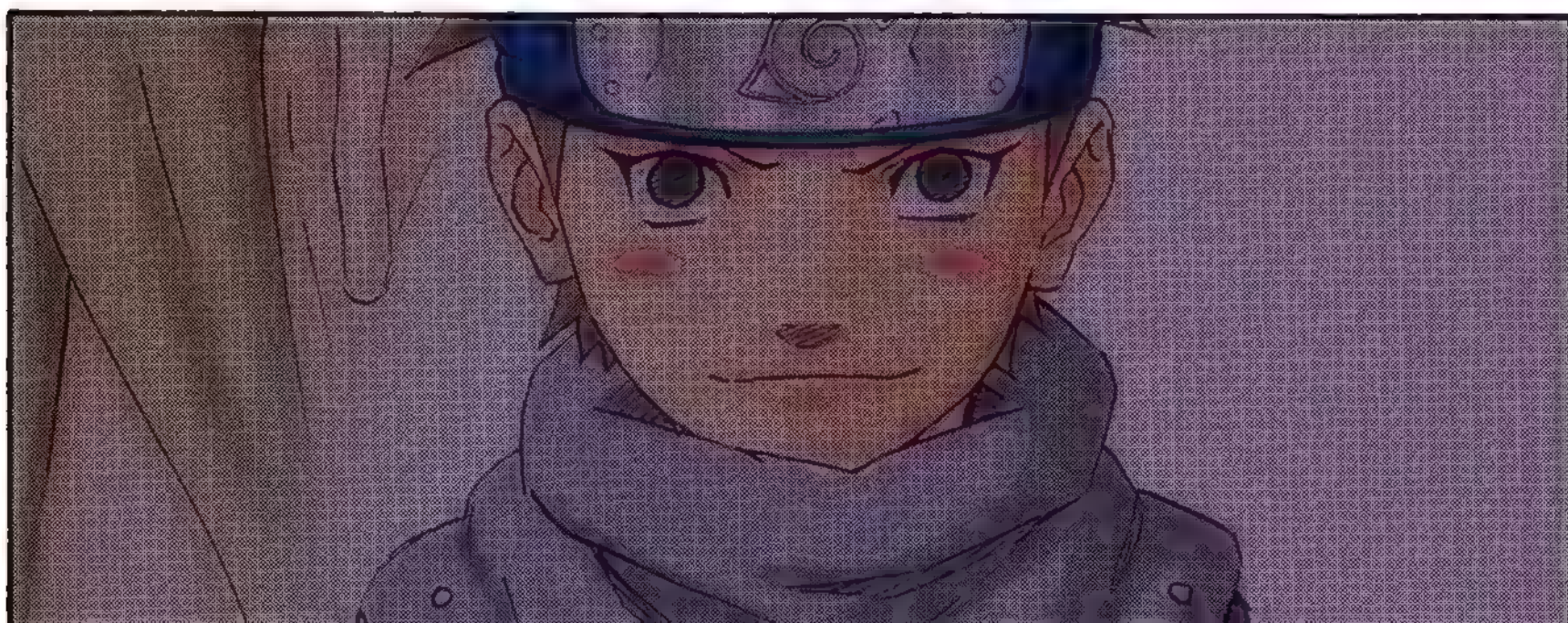
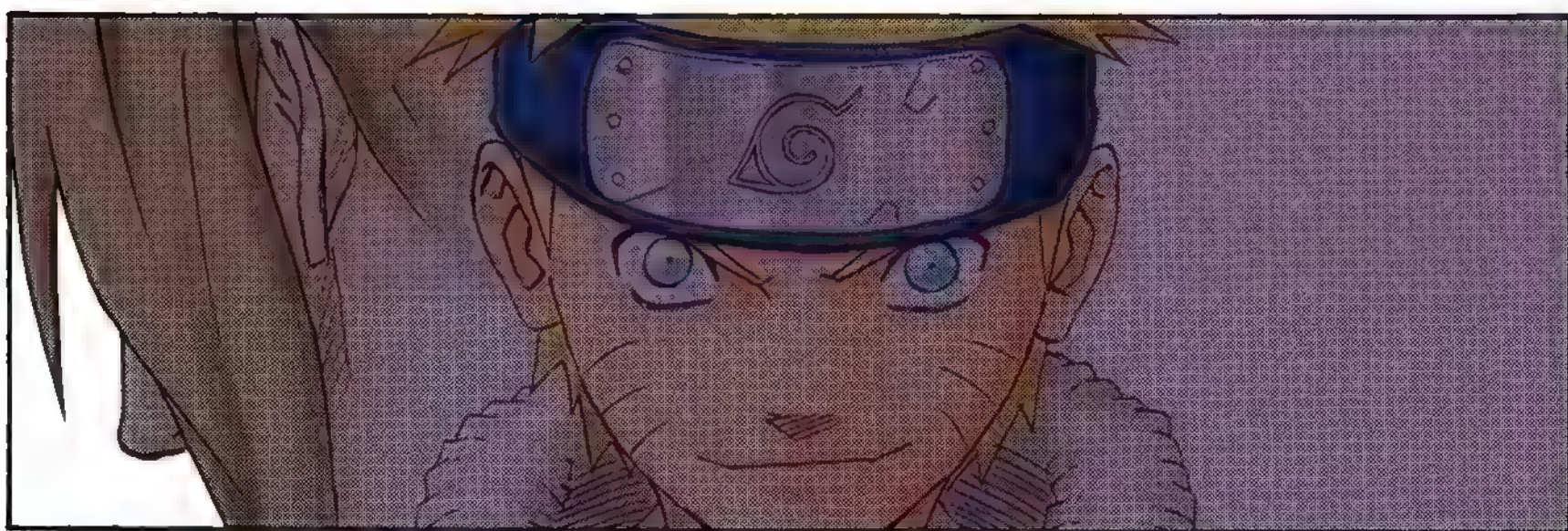
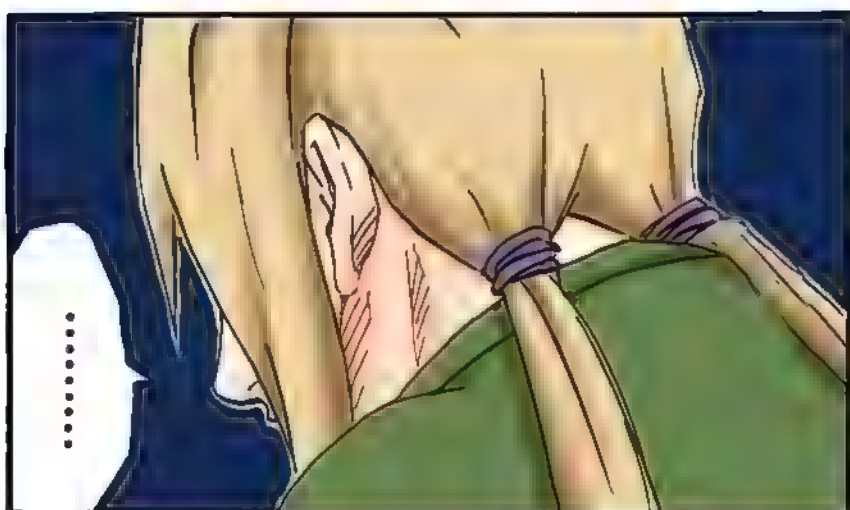
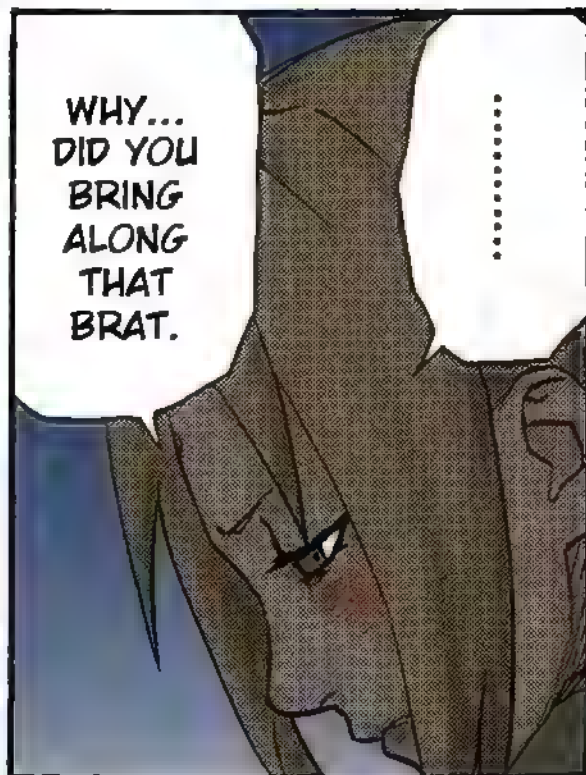
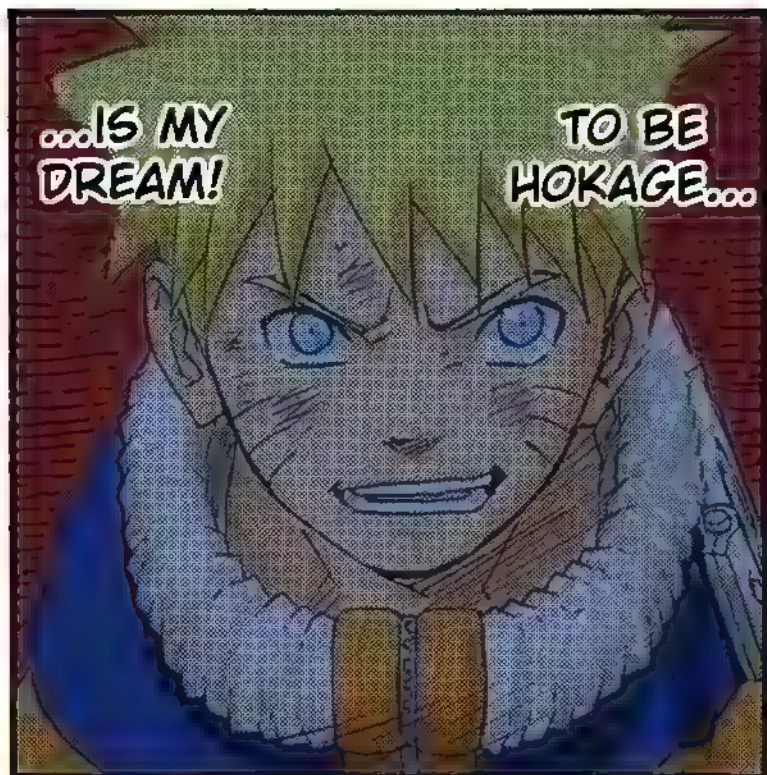


BUT...IF YOU
SHOULD EVER
HAPPEN TO DO
SOMETHING
THAT WOULD
BETRAY OUR
VILLAGE OF
KONOHGA...



I DOUBT THAT
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
OUR
PREDECESSORS'
FEELINGS.





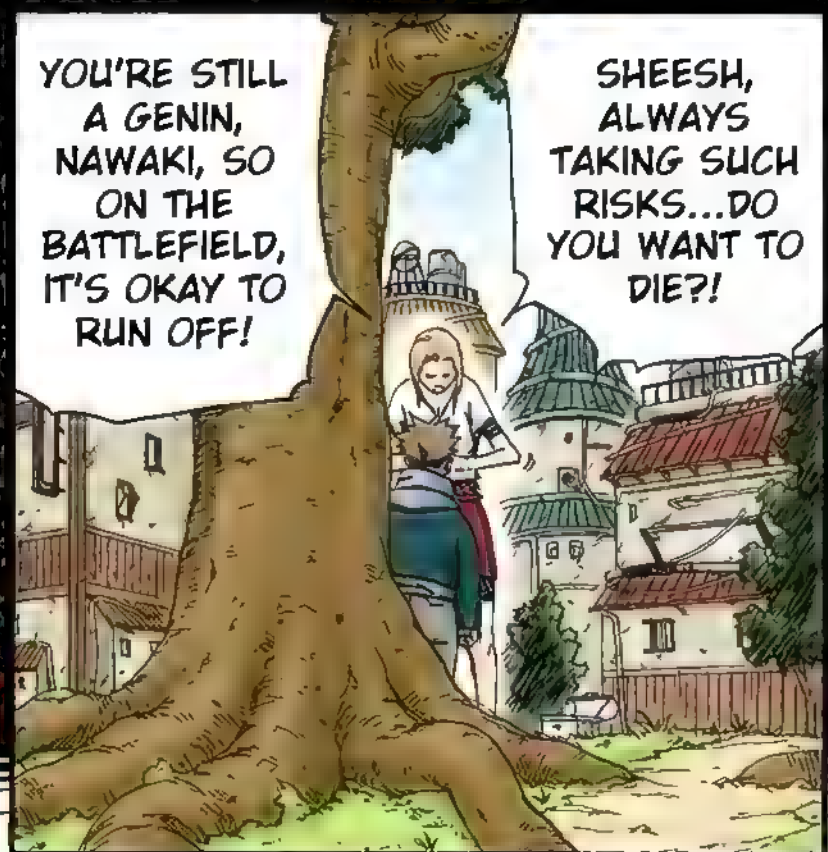


...IS MY
DREAM!

TO BE
HOKAGE...

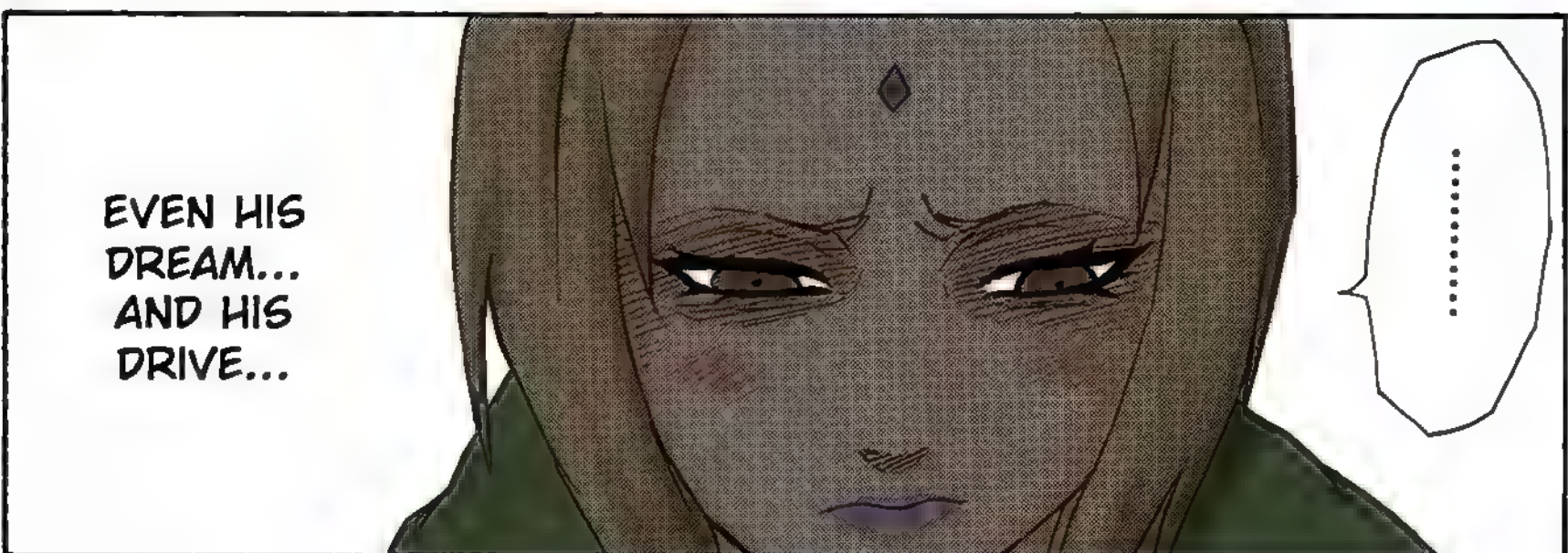


DON'T
YOU TELL
A MAN TO
RUN!!



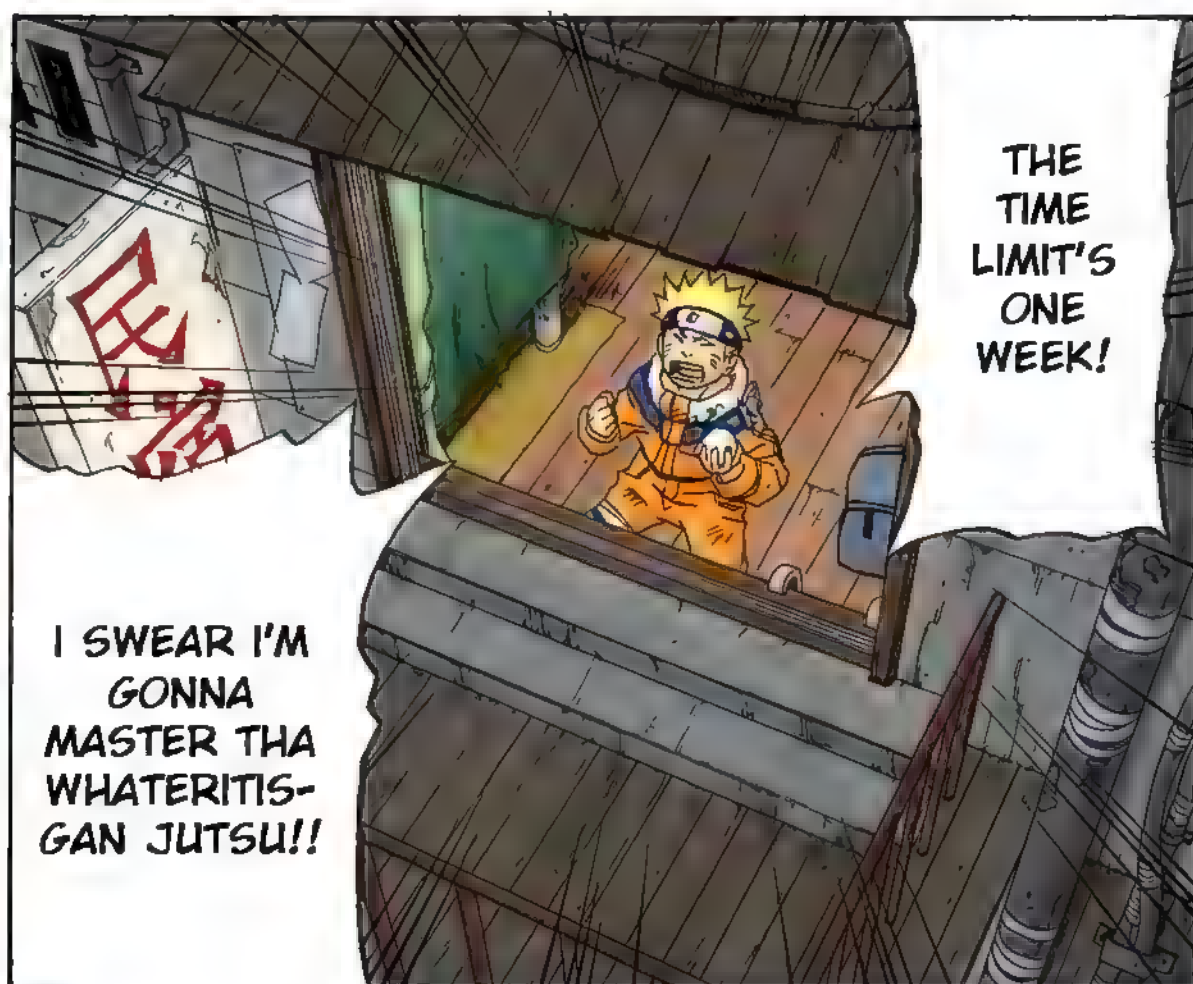
YOU'RE STILL
A GENIN,
NAWAKI, SO
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD,
IT'S OKAY TO
RUN OFF!

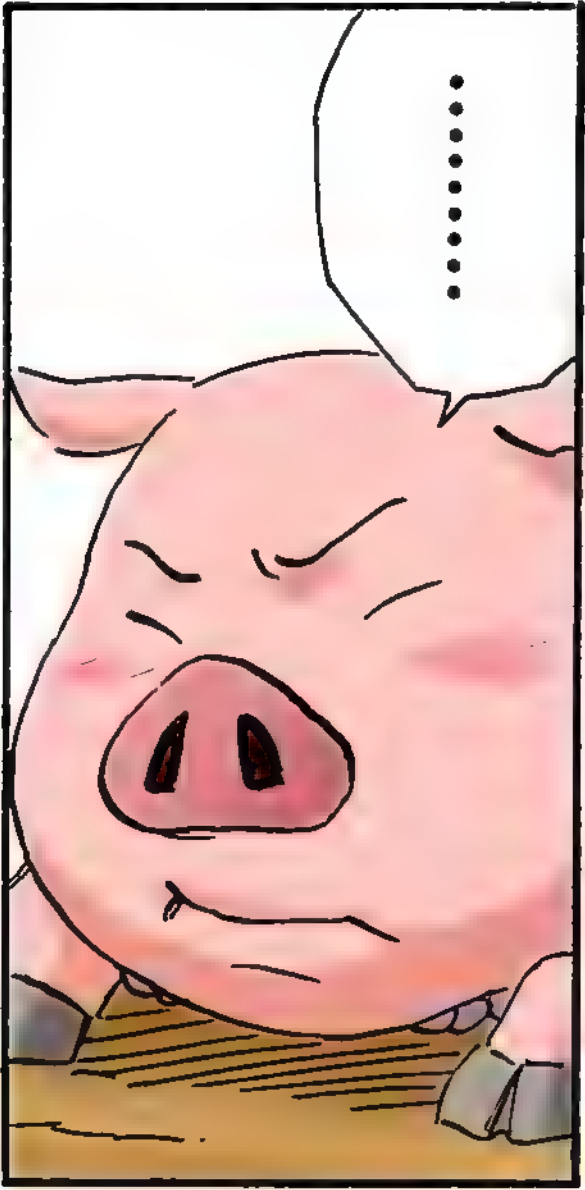
SHEESH,
ALWAYS
TAKING SUCH
RISKS...DO
YOU WANT TO
DIE?!



EVEN HIS
DREAM...
AND HIS
DRIVE...







ナンバー

160 :



THE NECKLACE OF DEATH....!!



I NEED TO
REST UP
TONIGHT SO I
CAN TRAIN
EARLY!

IT'S THE
MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT...
WHAT'S SO
IMPORTANT
?!



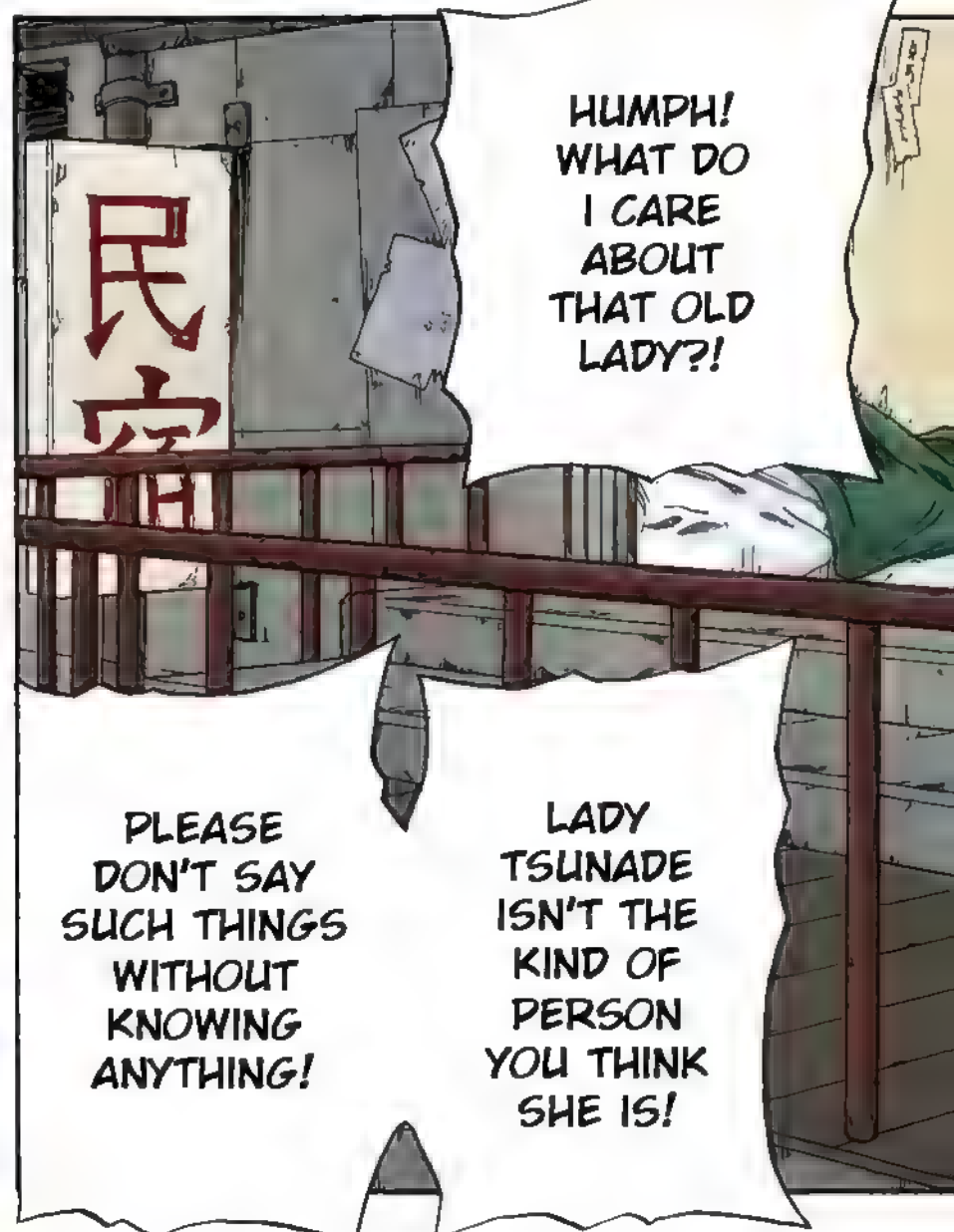
...AND I
WANTED TO
EXPLAIN
ABOUT THE
NECKLACE,
TOO...

I'M
SORRY...

...BUT I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
MISUNDER-
STAND LADY
TSUNADE...



...



HUMPH!
WHAT DO
I CARE
ABOUT
THAT OLD
LADY?!

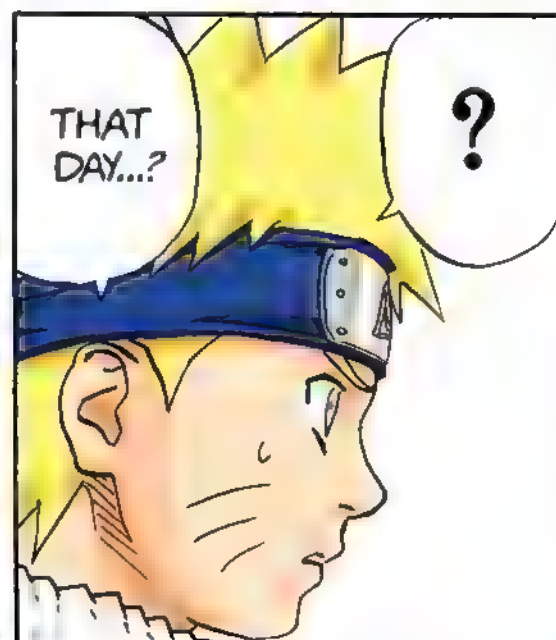
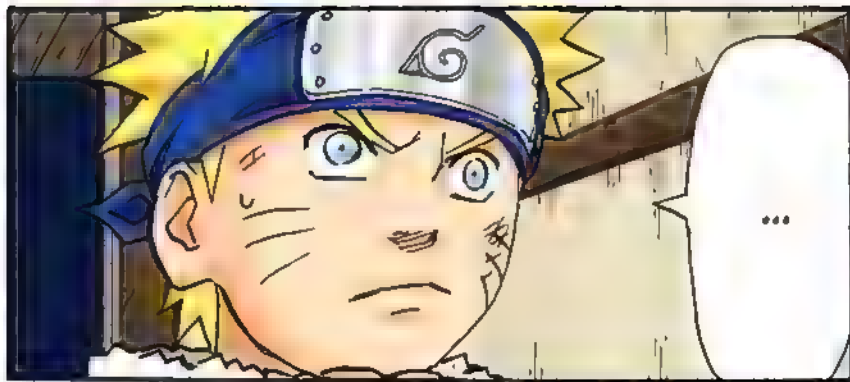
PLEASE
DON'T SAY
SUCH THINGS
WITHOUT
KNOWING
ANYTHING!

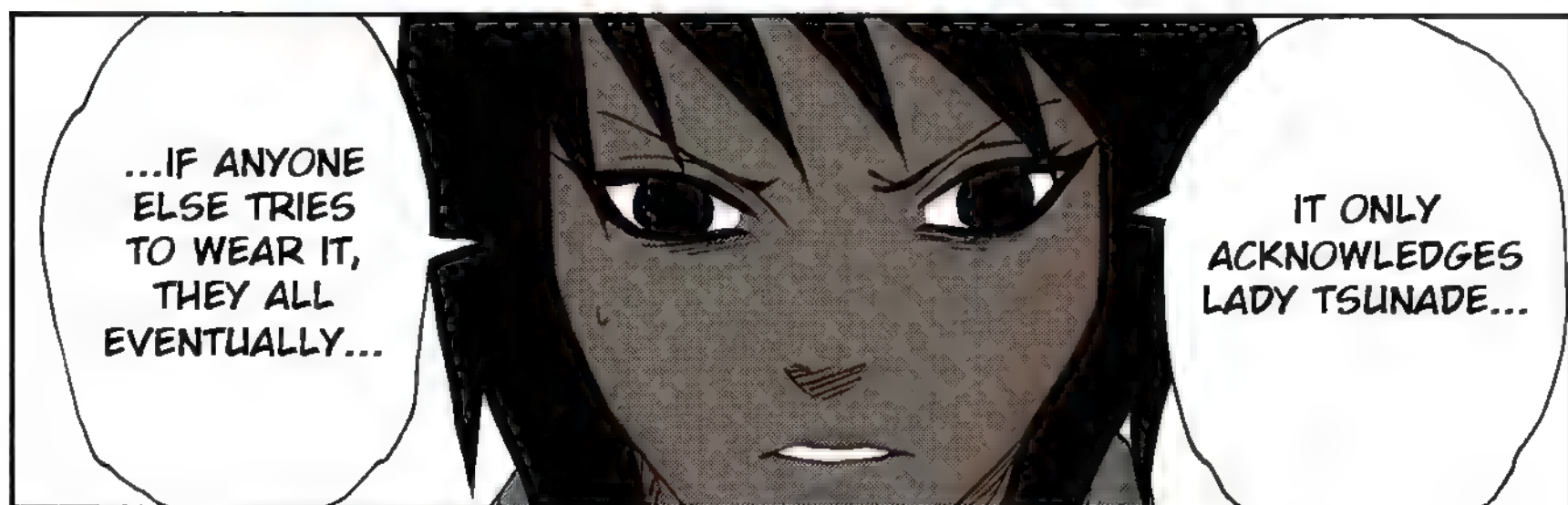
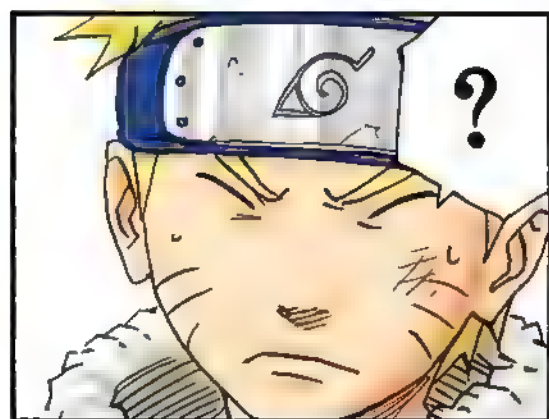
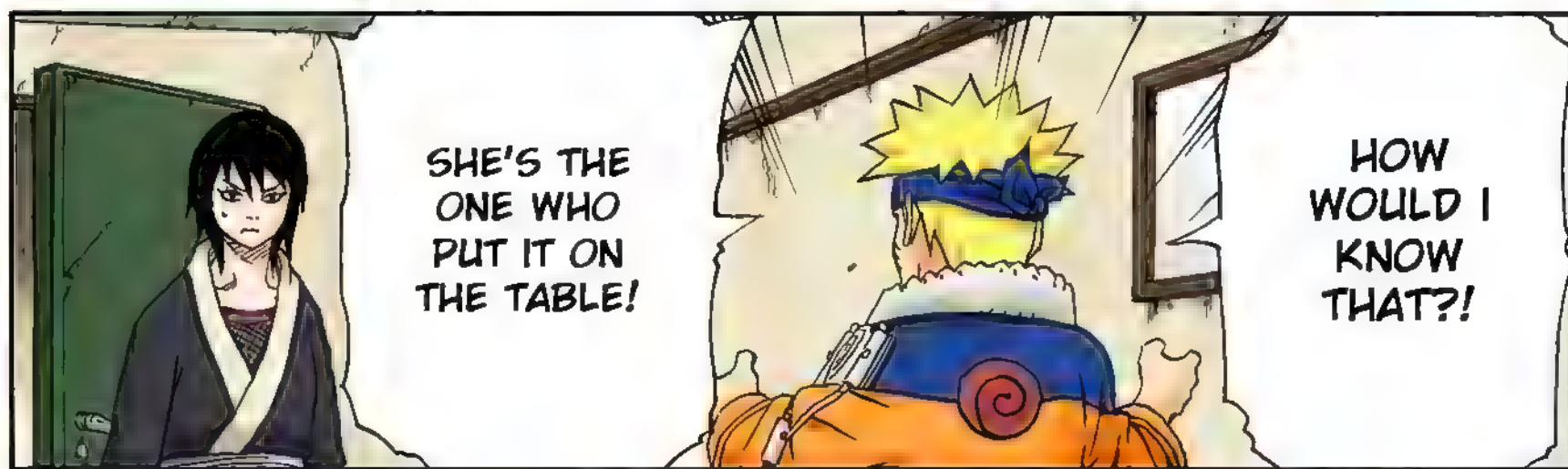
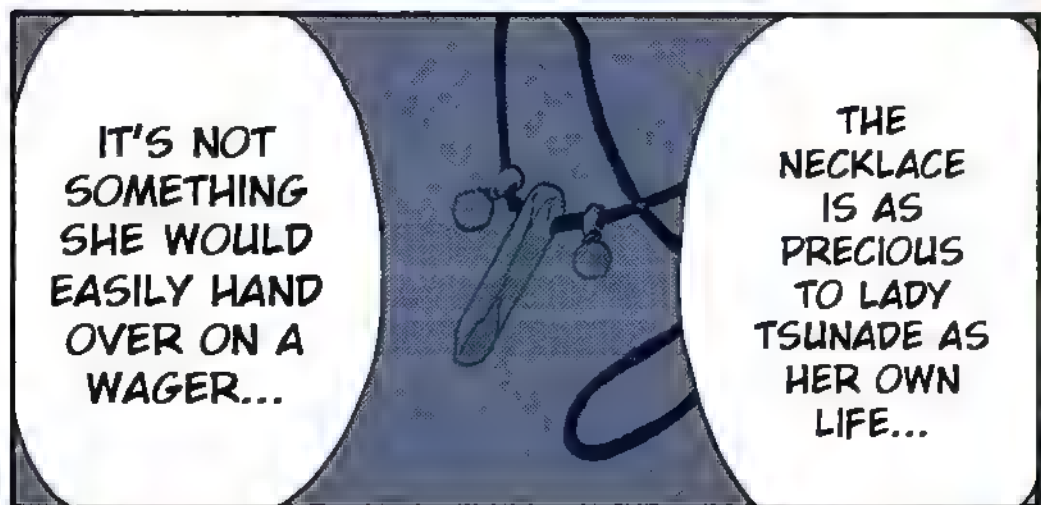
LADY
TSUNADE
ISN'T THE
KIND OF
PERSON
YOU THINK
SHE IS!



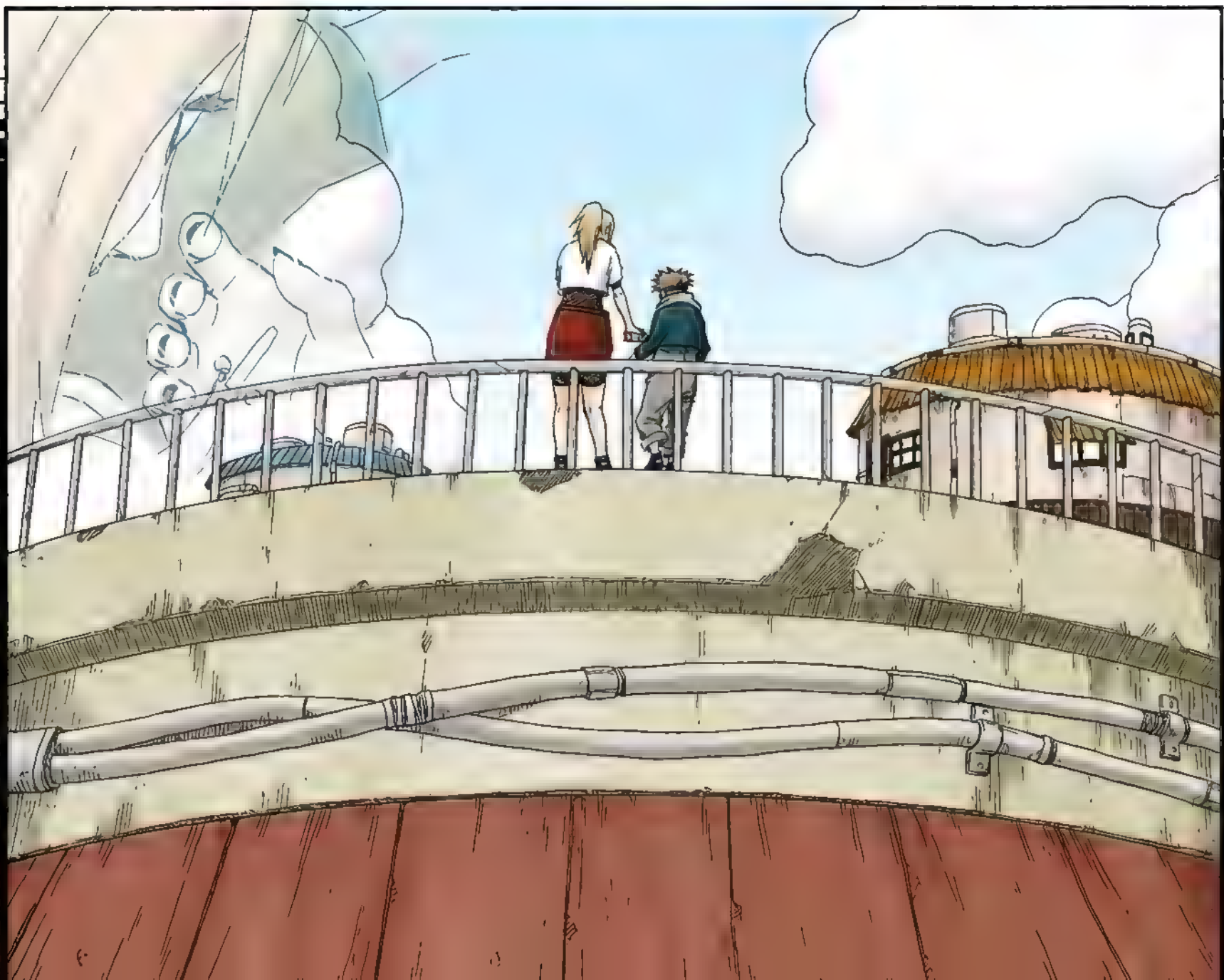
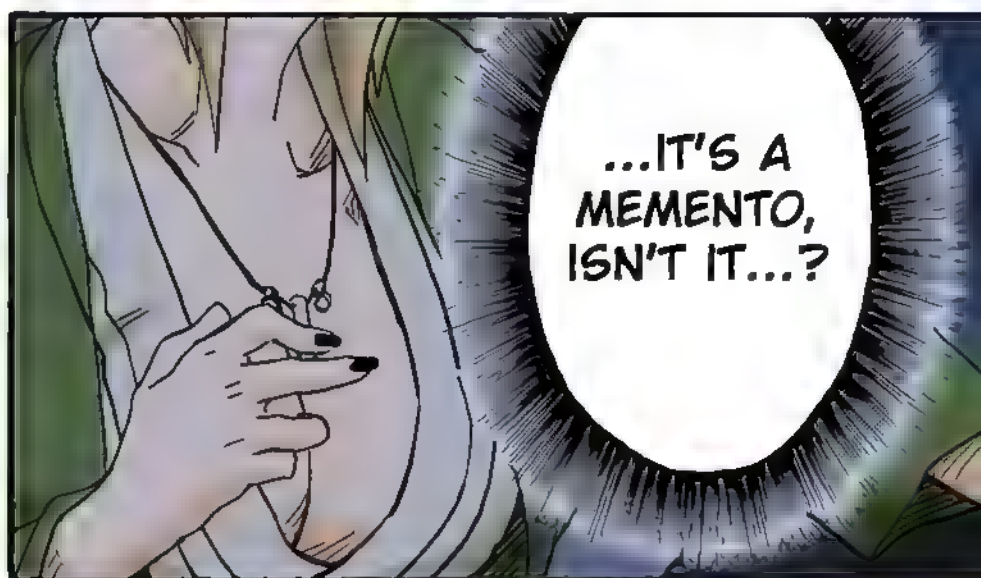
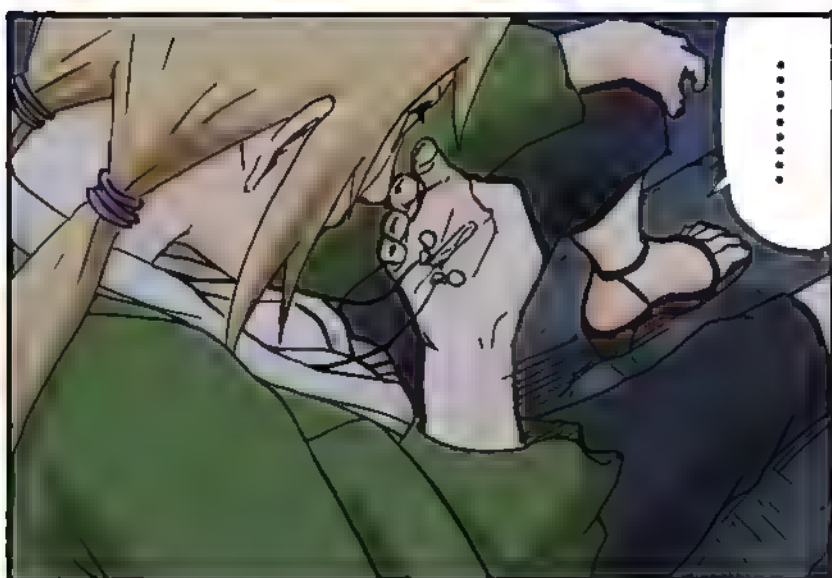
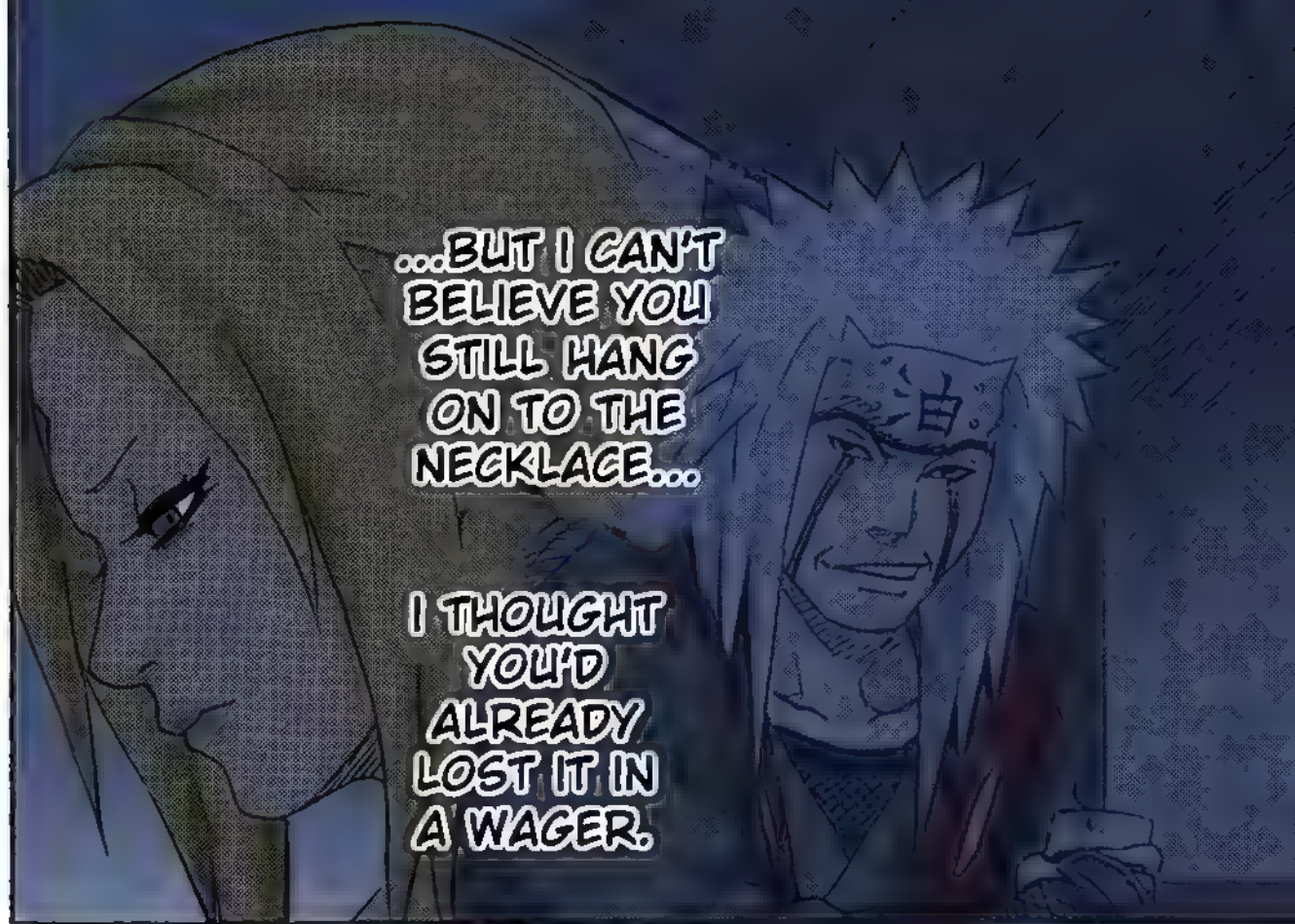
I'M
SORRY...
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
RAISE MY
VOICE AT
YOU...

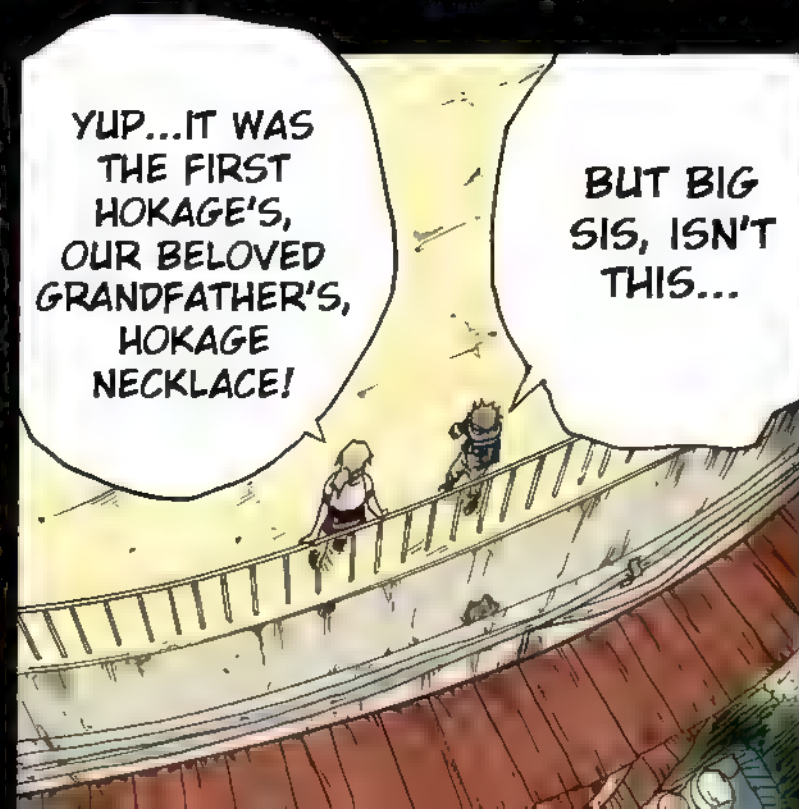
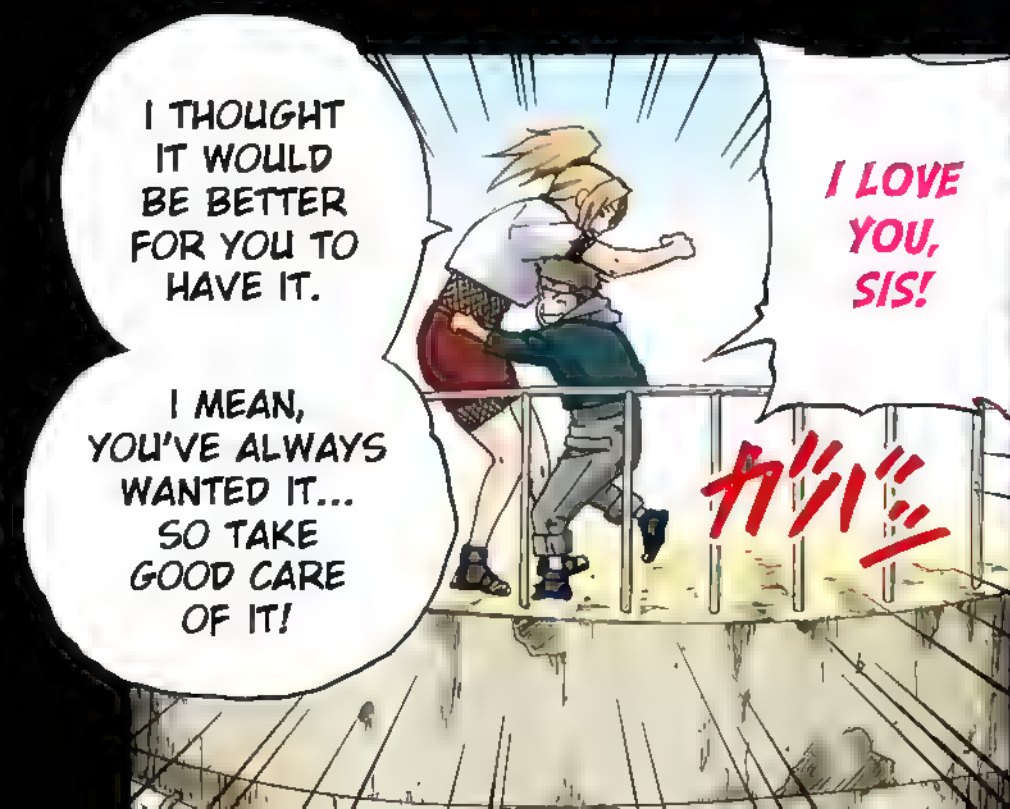
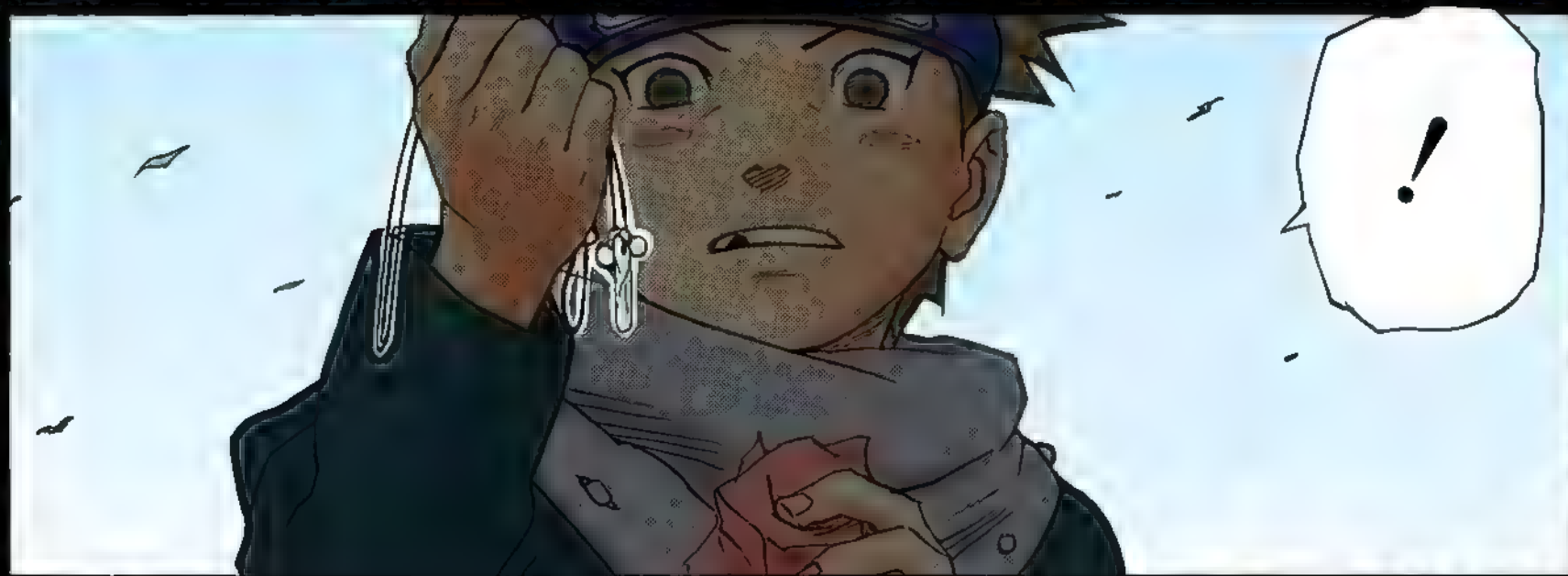
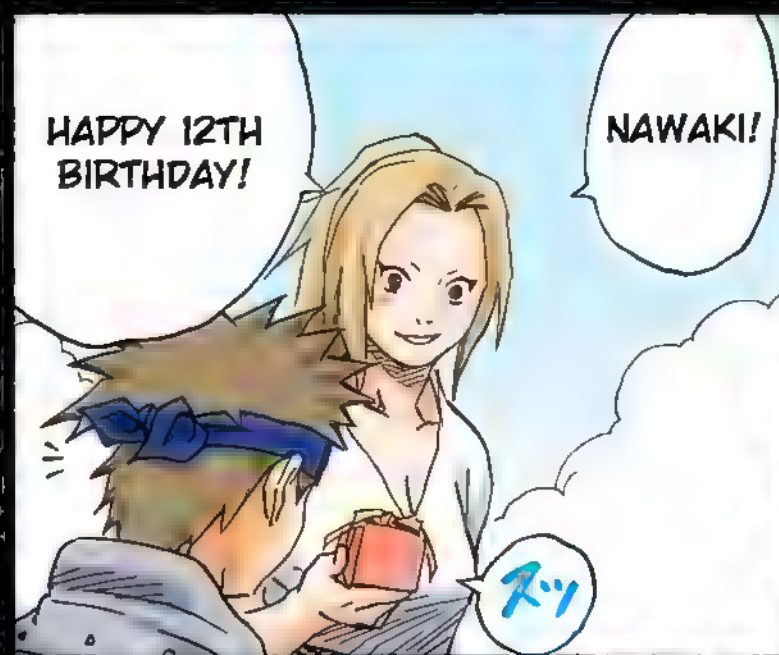
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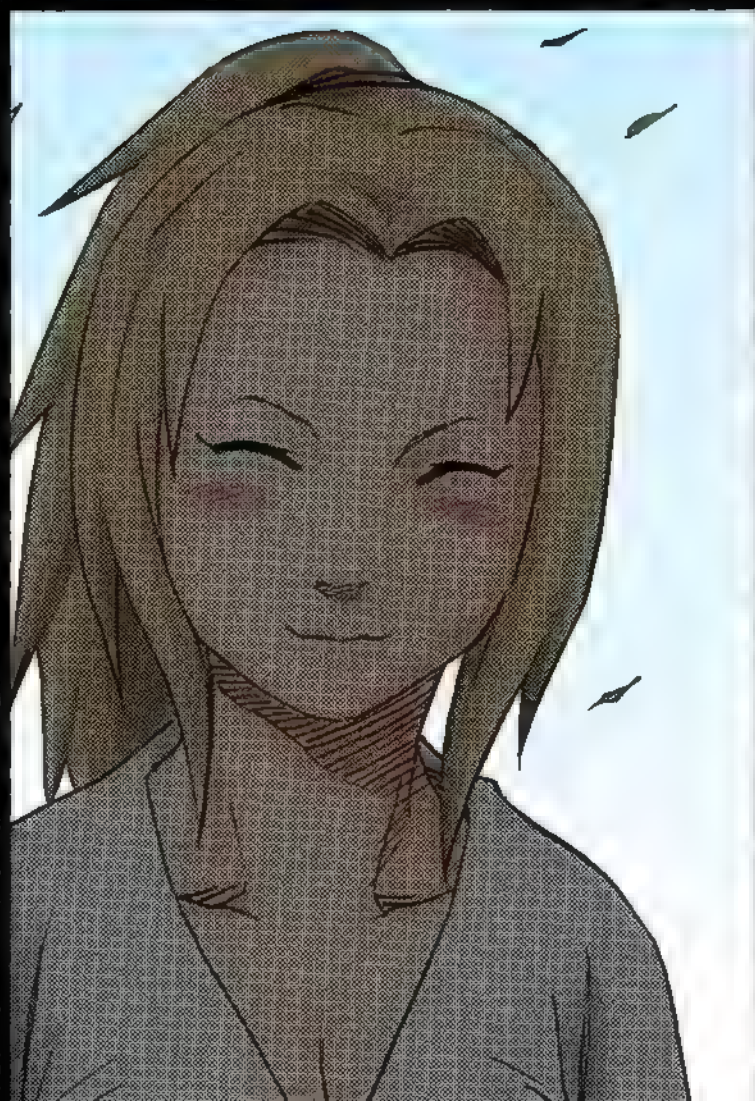
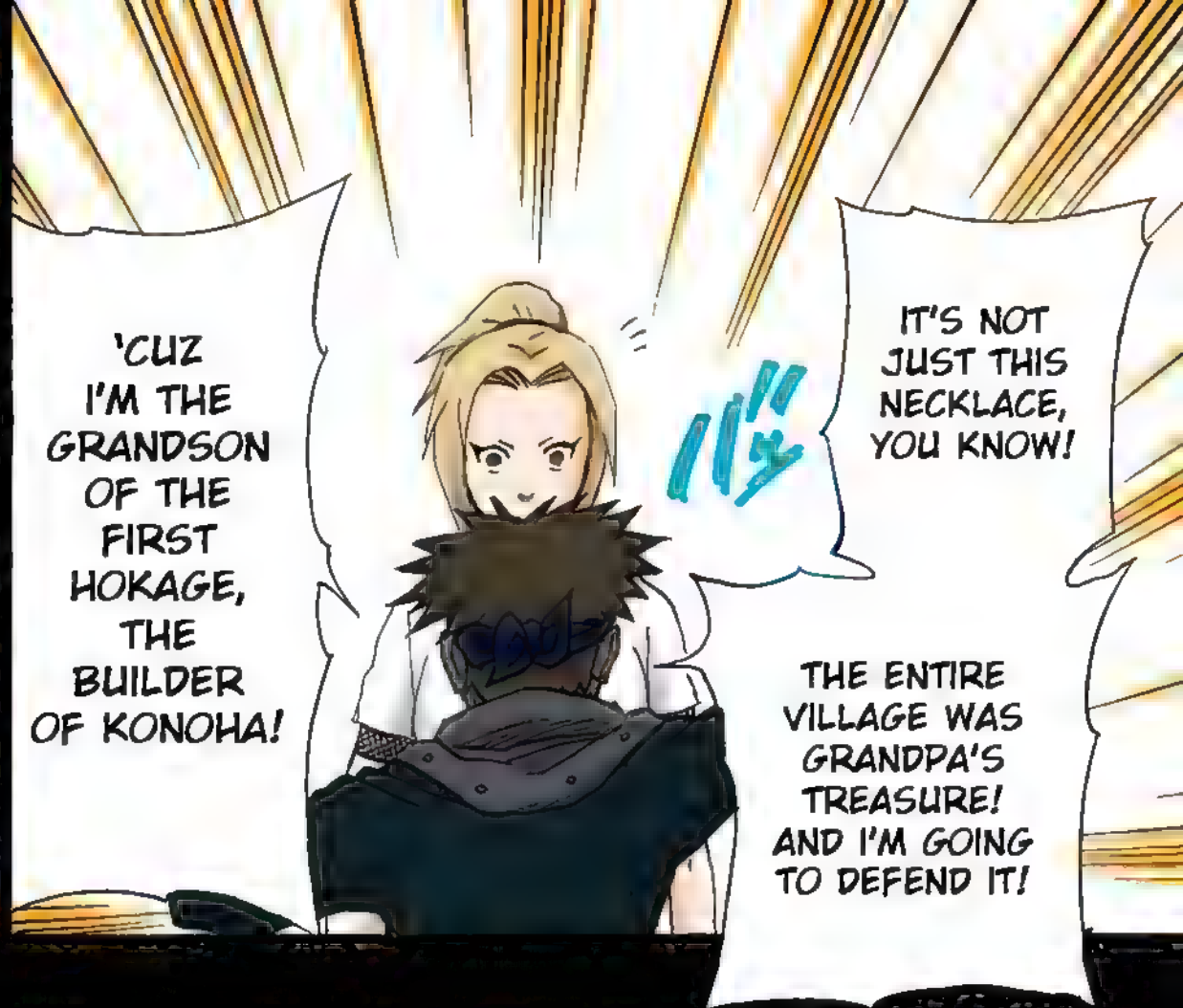
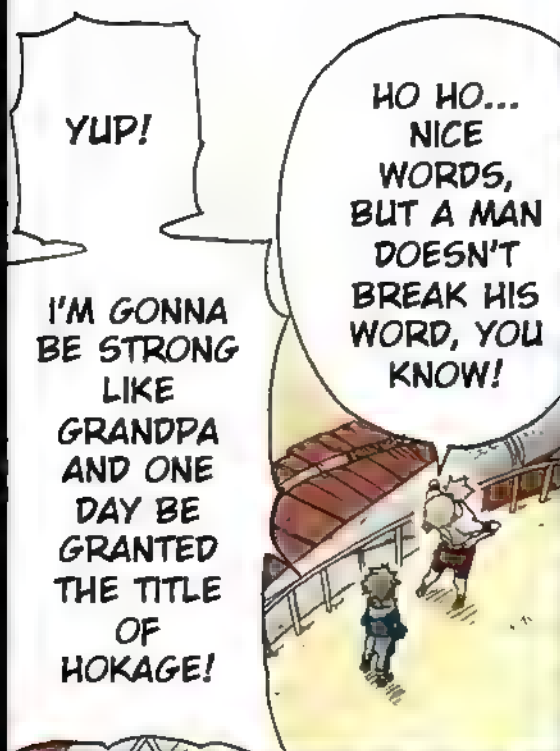


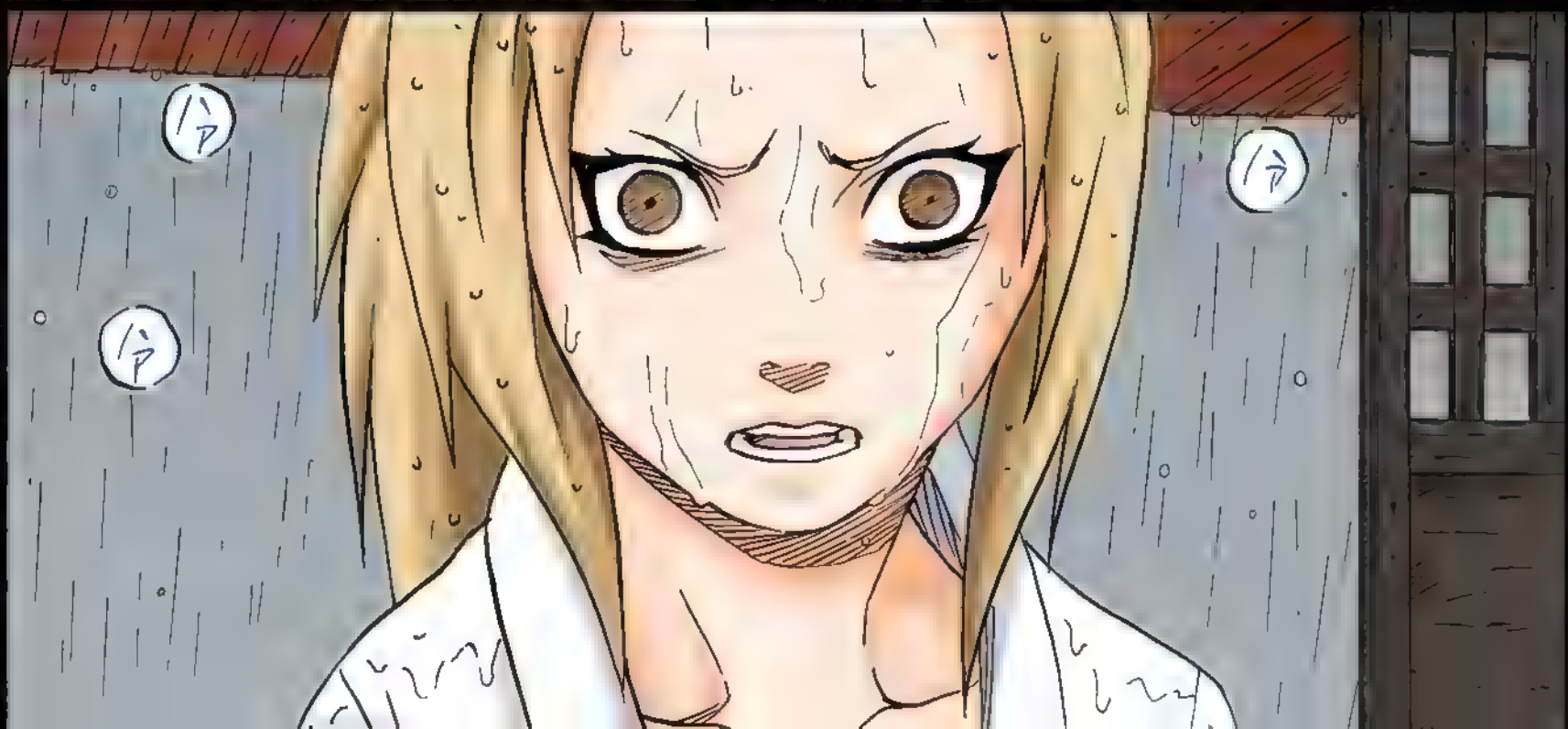
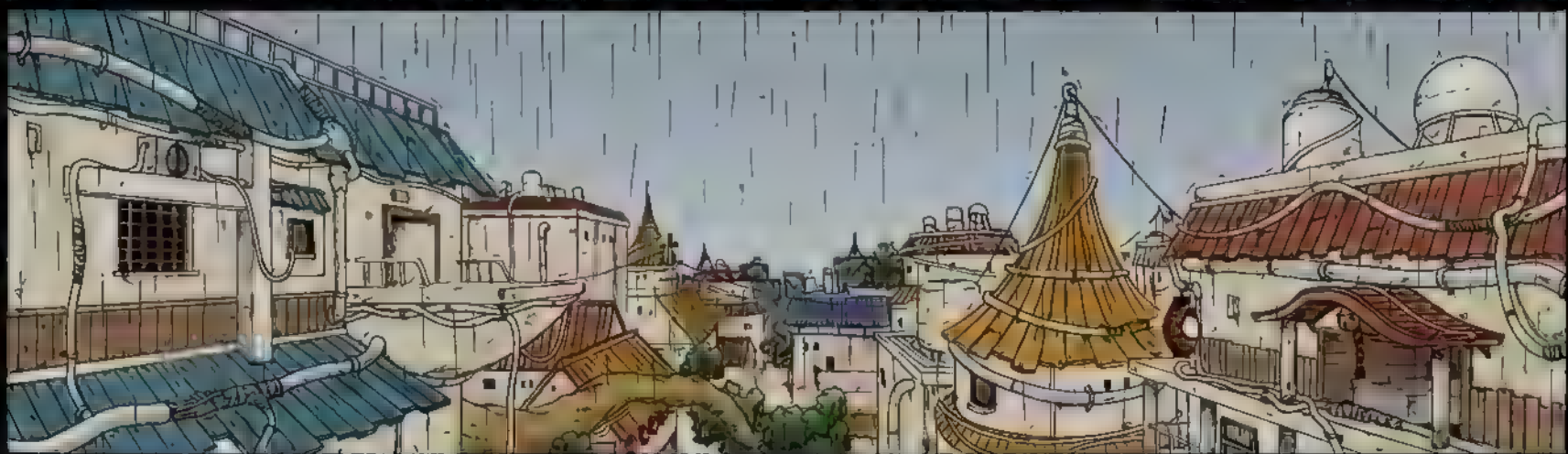
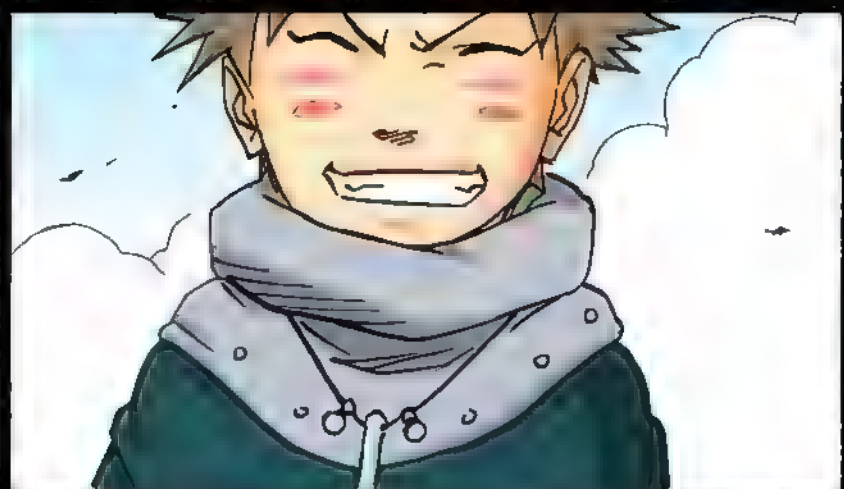
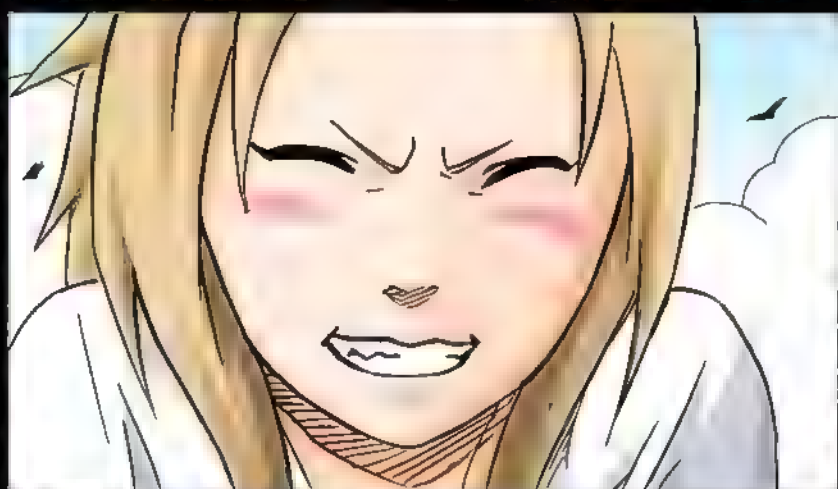
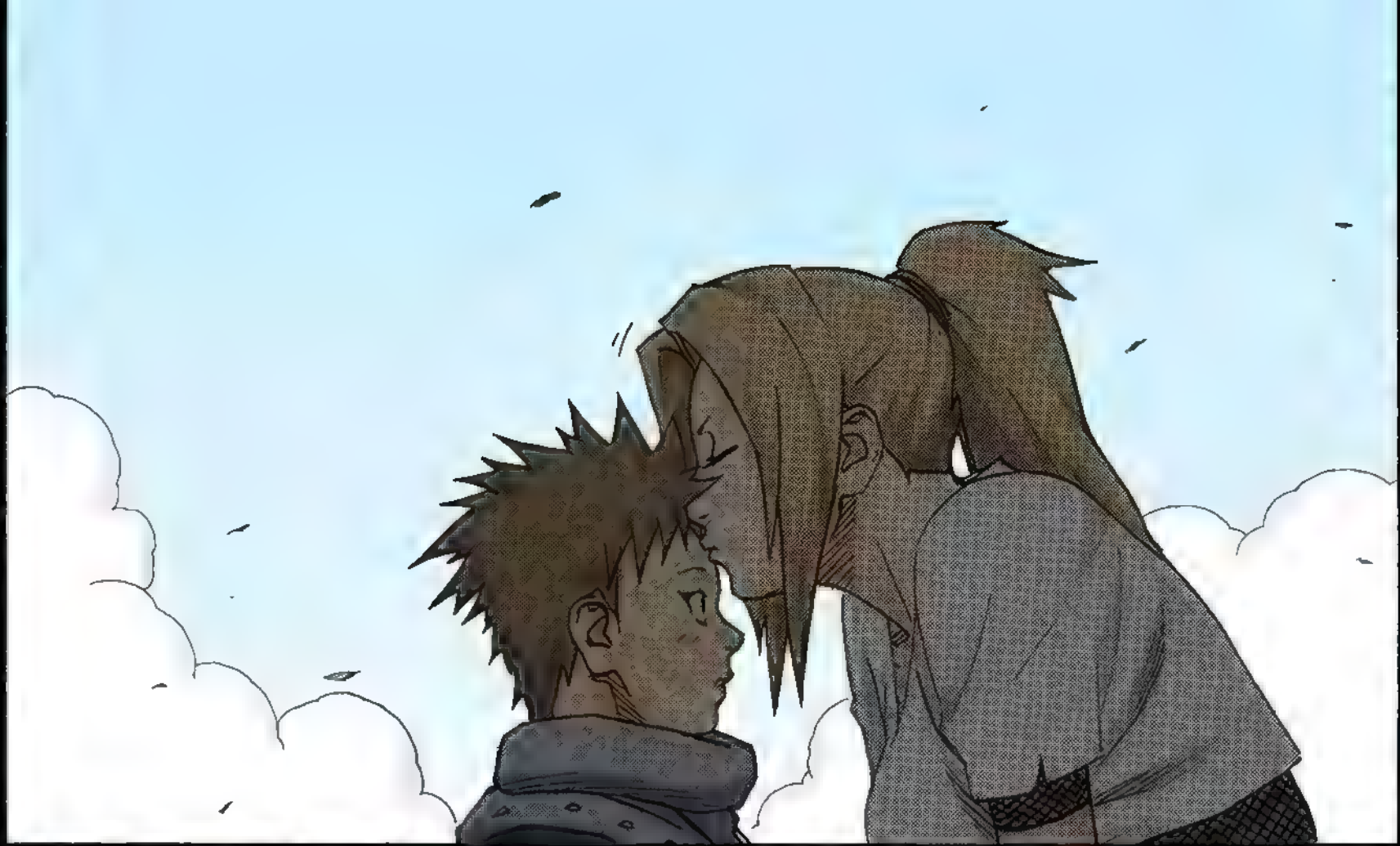


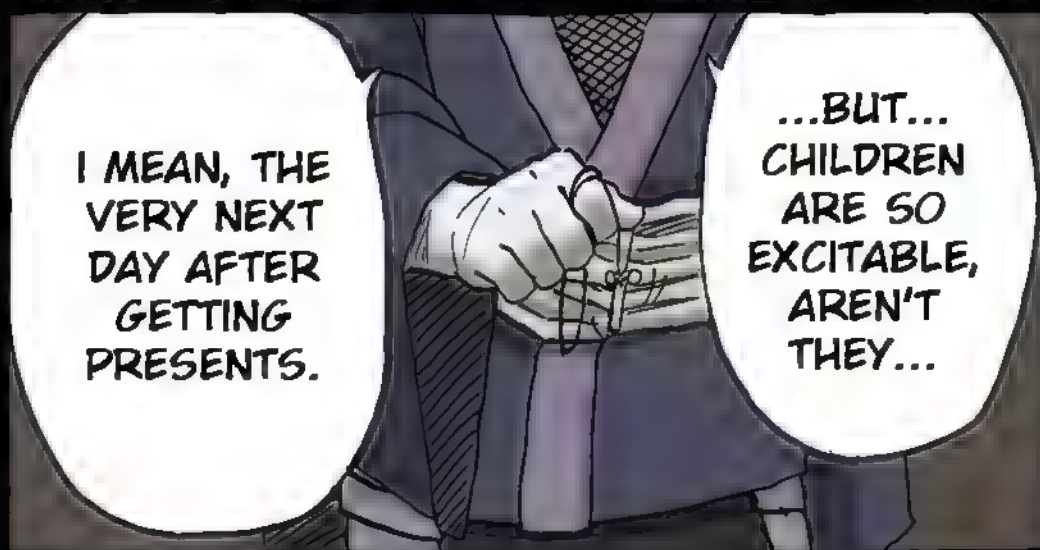
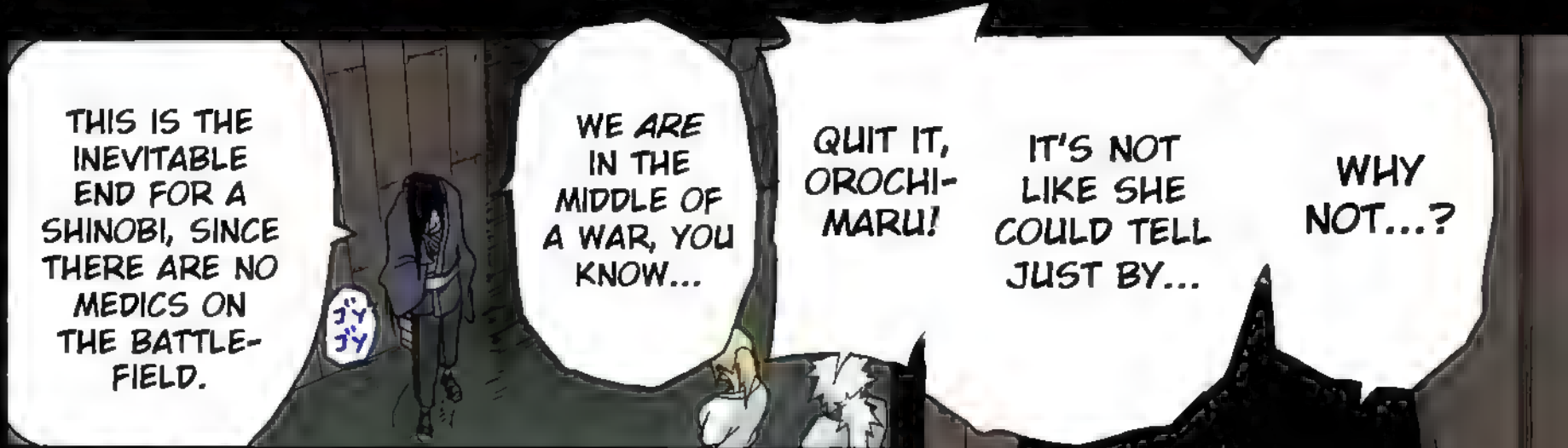
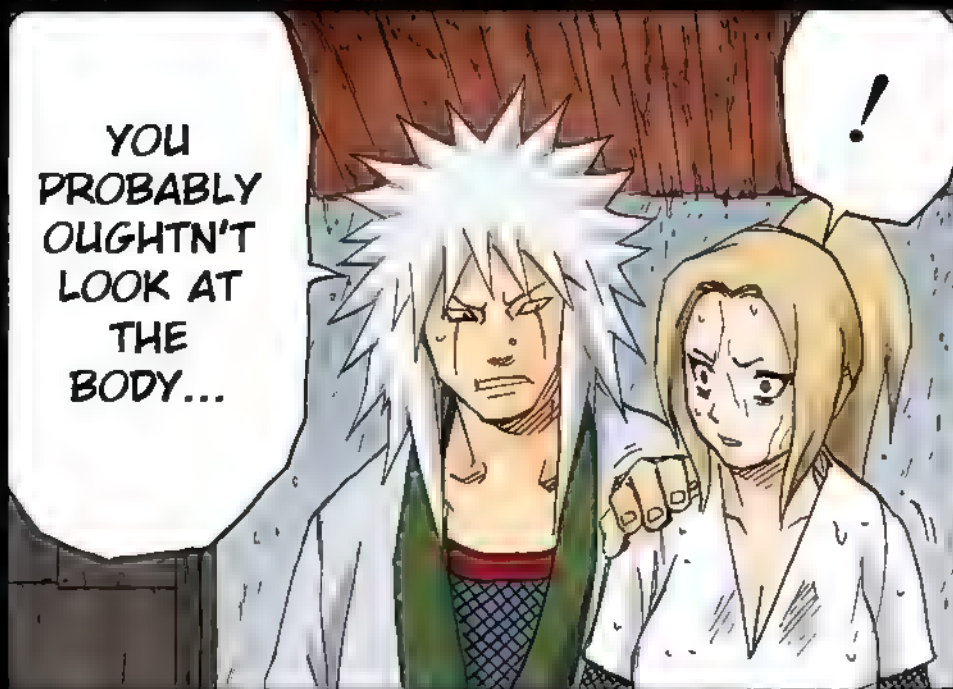
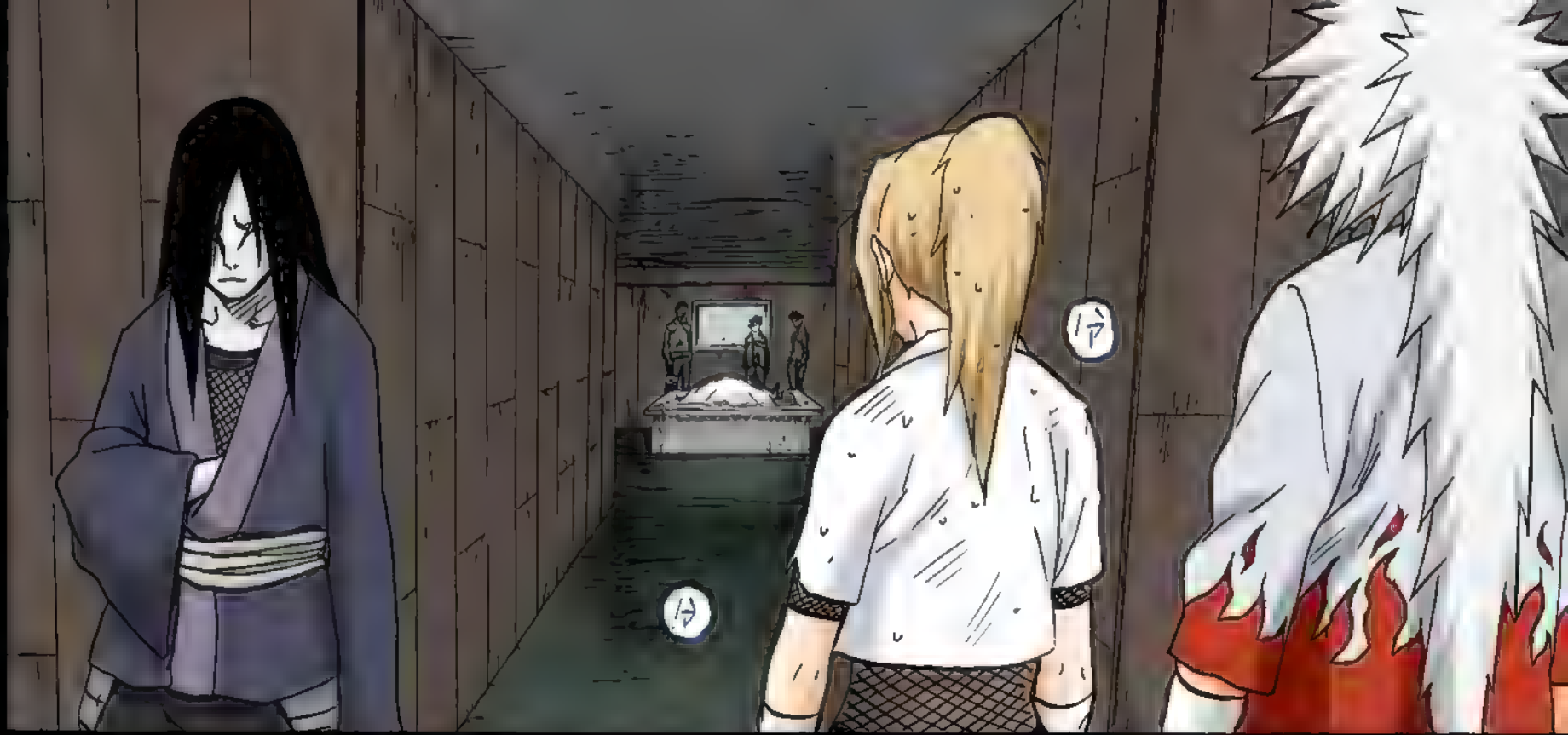


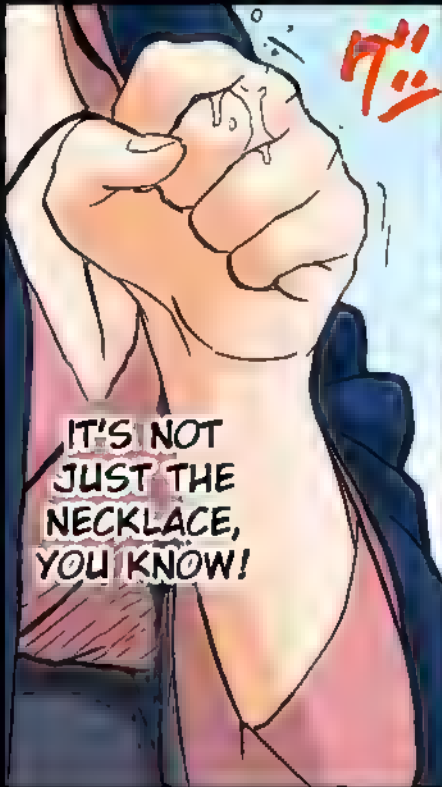




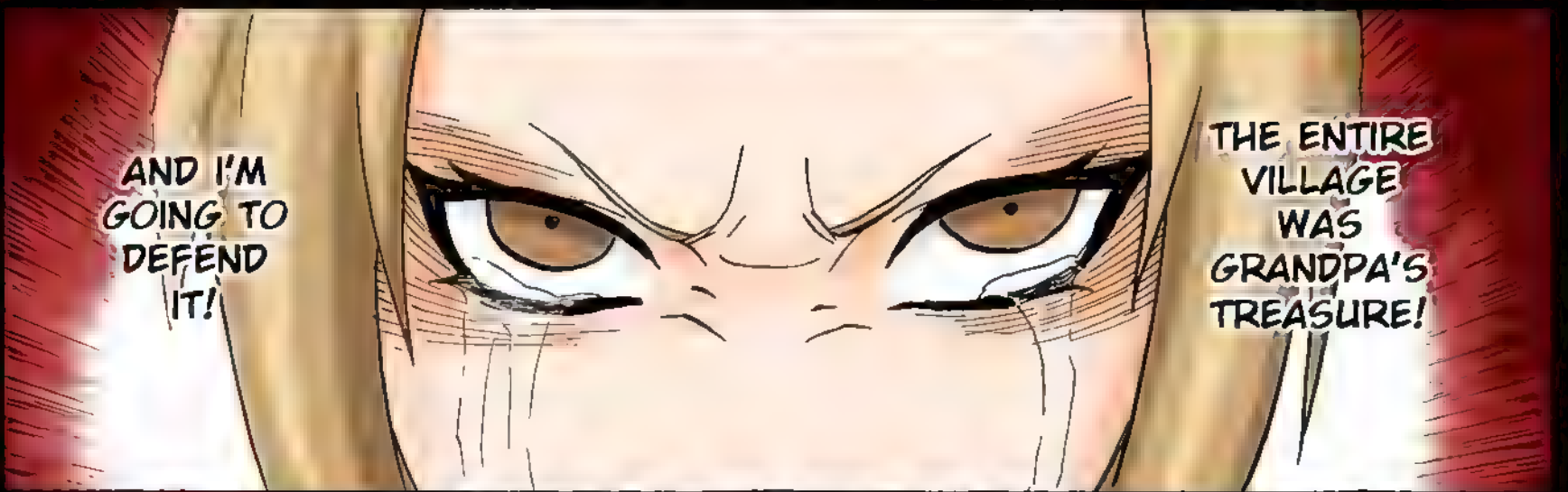
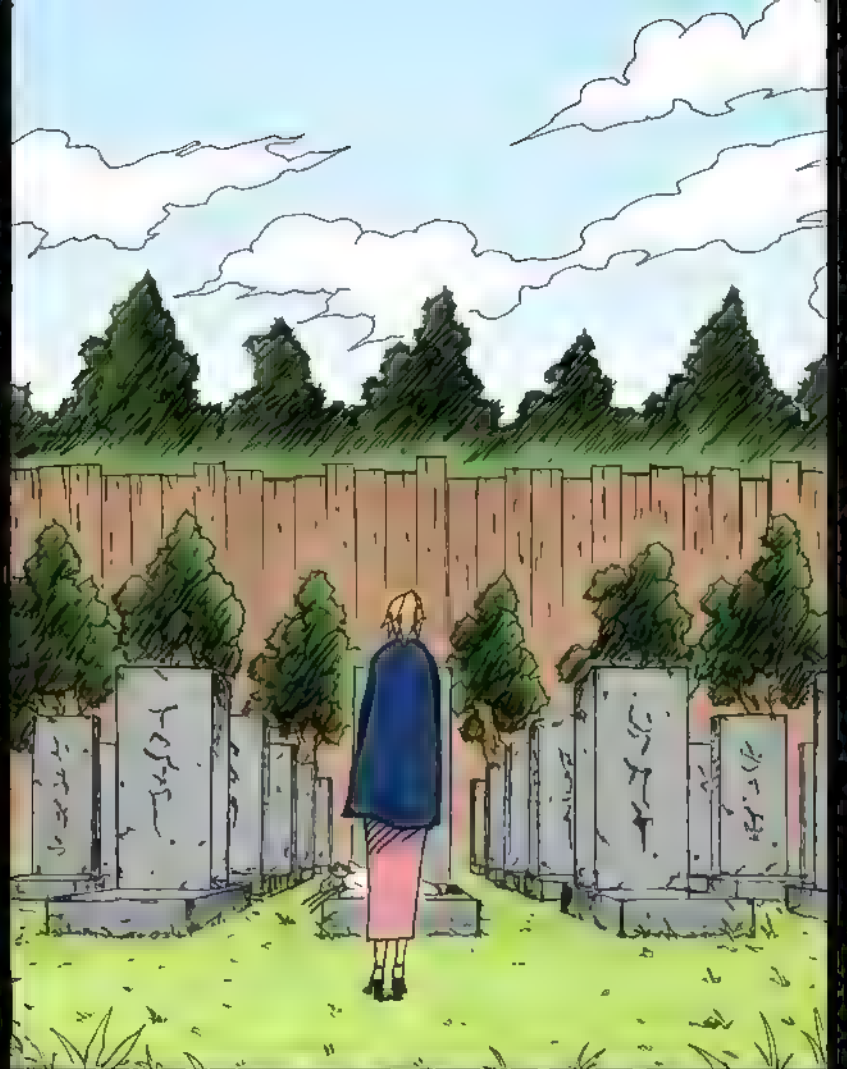






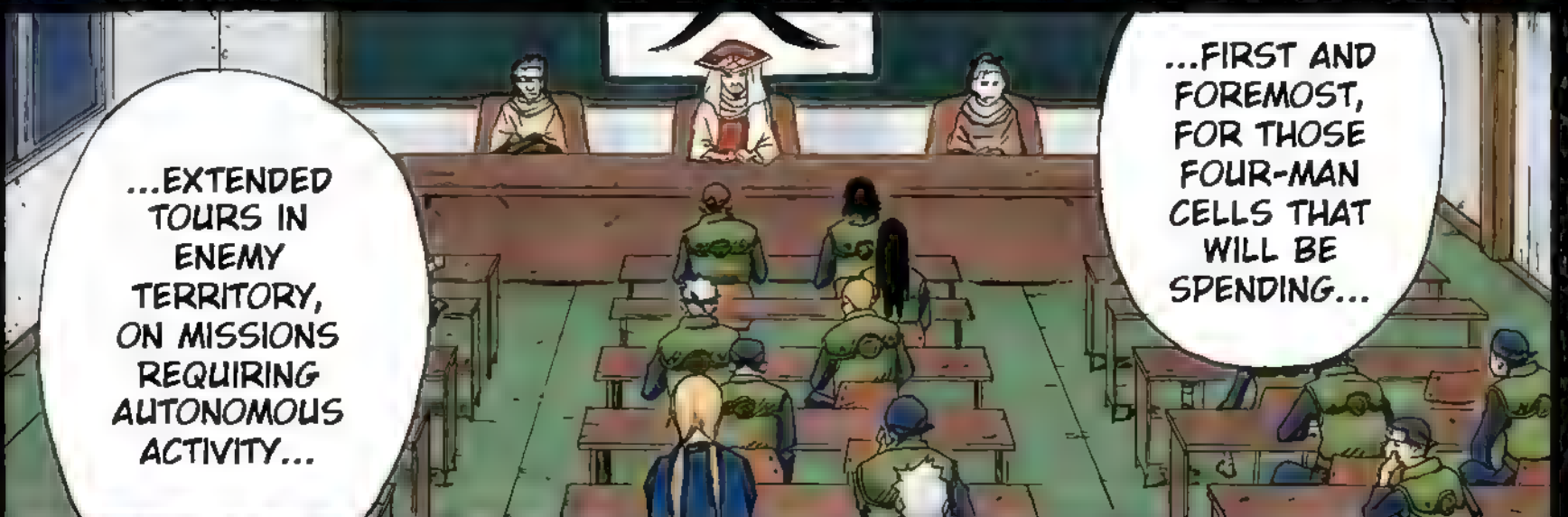
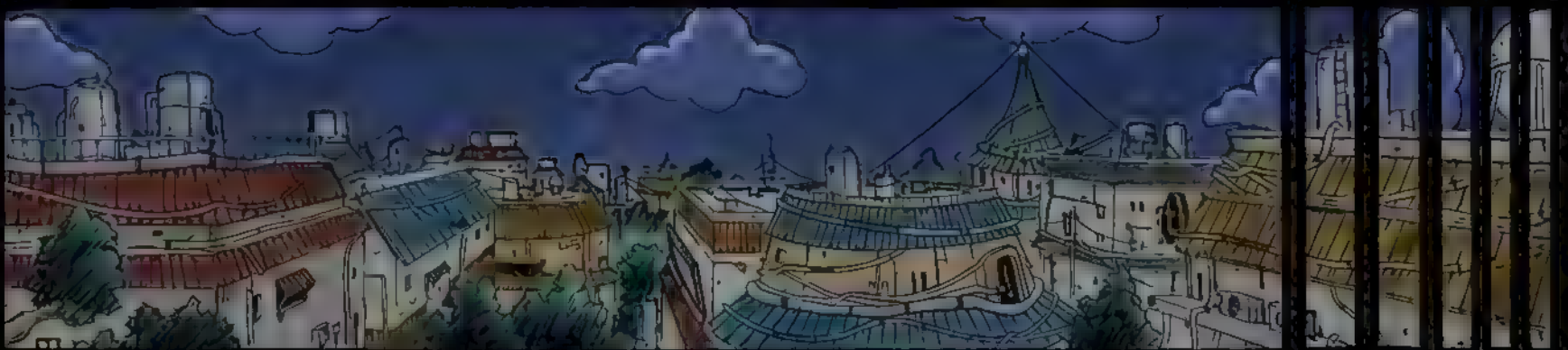


IT'S NOT
JUST THE
NECKLACE,
YOU KNOW!



AND I'M
GOING TO
DEFEND
IT!

THE ENTIRE
VILLAGE
WAS
GRANDPA'S
TREASURE!



...EXTENDED
TOURS IN
ENEMY
TERRITORY,
ON MISSIONS
REQUIRING
AUTONOMOUS
ACTIVITY...

...FIRST AND
FOREMOST,
FOR THOSE
FOUR-MAN
CELLS THAT
WILL BE
SPENDING...



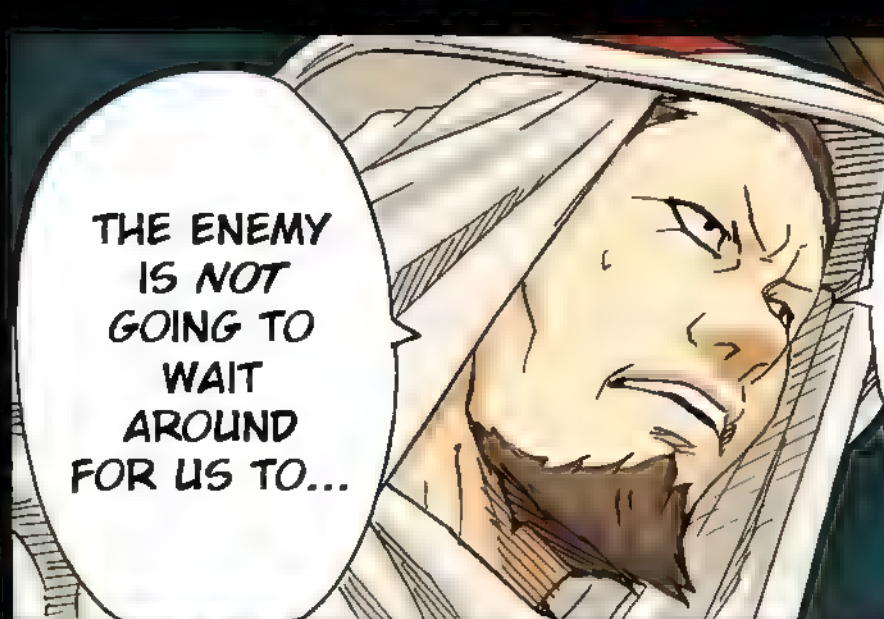
THUS, I BELIEVE
THAT THE
CULTIVATING OF
MEDIC NINJA
POSSESSING
ADVANCED MEDICAL
KNOWLEDGE AND
THE FURTHER
DEVELOPMENT
OF MEDICAL
NINJUTSU...

...THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF SUCH A
SYSTEM OUGHT
TO BE OUR TOP
PRIORITY!



...WOULD
GREATLY
INCREASE BOTH
THE MISSION
SUCCESS RATE
AS WELL AS THE
UNIT SURVIVAL
RATE.

...I FEEL THAT
ASSIGNING A
MEDICAL
SPECIALIST
AS ONE OF
THE FOUR
UNIT
MEMBERS...



THE ENEMY
IS NOT
GOING TO
WAIT
AROUND
FOR US TO...

...BUT WE ARE
CURRENTLY IN
THE MIDDLE OF A
WAR...IN ORDER TO
ACTUALIZE A MEDICAL
INSTITUTION, NOT
ONLY DOES IT TAKE
TIME, BUT WE LACK
TOO MUCH KNOW-HOW
AT THE PRESENT
TIME AS WELL.

HMM...

FOR SURE,
THE NEED
IS THERE,
AS YOU
SAY...



SO WHEN
ARE WE
EVER
GONNA...

I AGREE
WITH HER
COMPLETELY.

**HEY,
LISTEN UP,
GEEZER!**



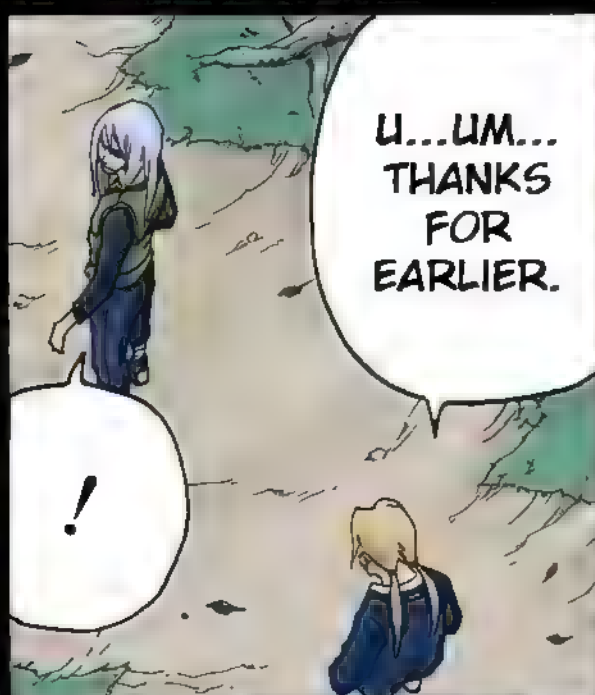
WE OUGHT
TO LEARN
SOMETHING
FROM
THEM.

I DO NOT WANT
TO WASTE THE
DEATHS OF
THOSE SHINOBI
WHO HAVE
ALREADY
SACRAFICED
THEIR LIVES.



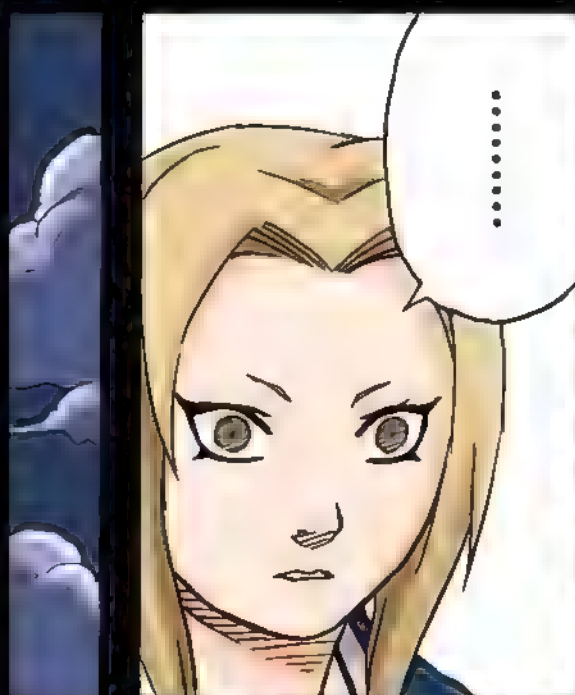
YOU ARE
CORRECT,
YOU KNOW.

.....

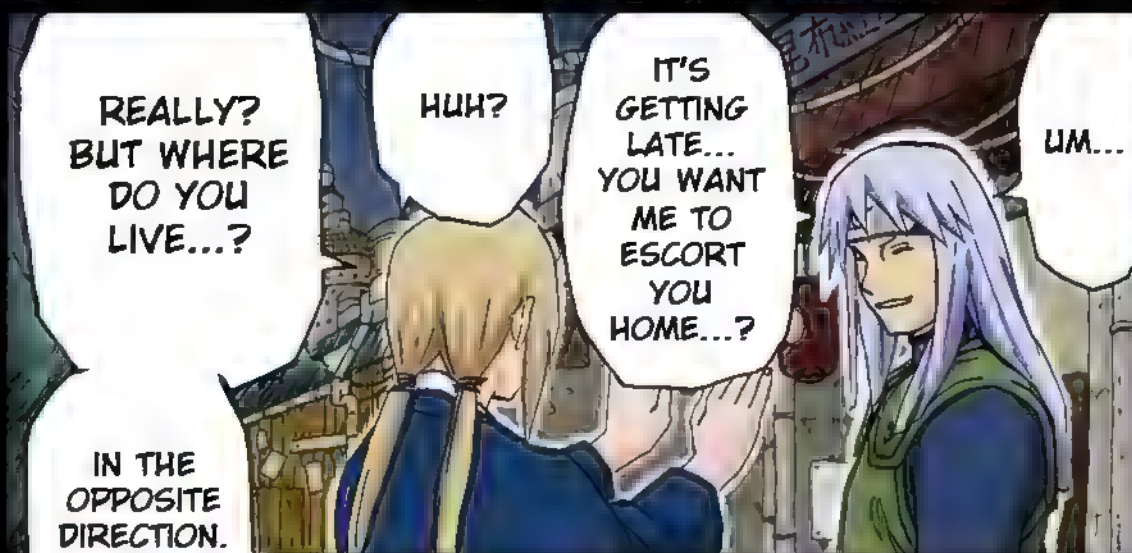


U...UM...
THANKS
FOR
EARLIER.

!



.....



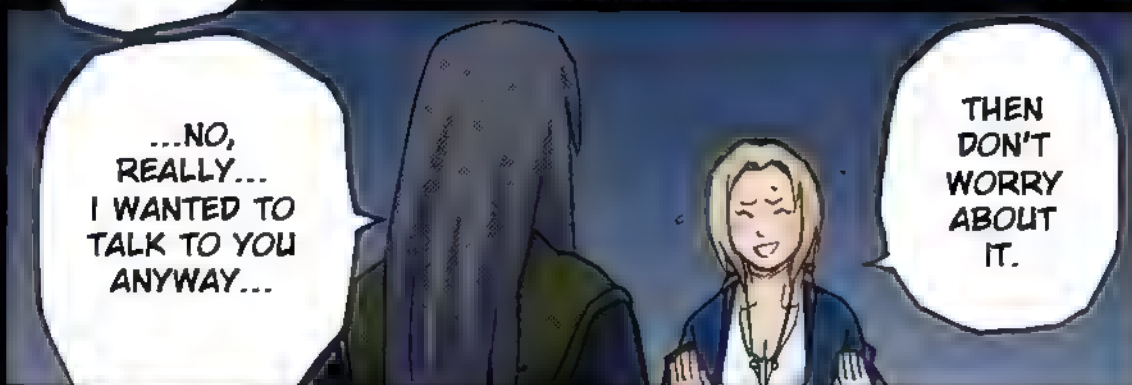
REALLY?
BUT WHERE
DO YOU
LIVE...?

HUH?

IT'S
GETTING
LATE...
YOU WANT
ME TO
ESCORT
YOU
HOME...?

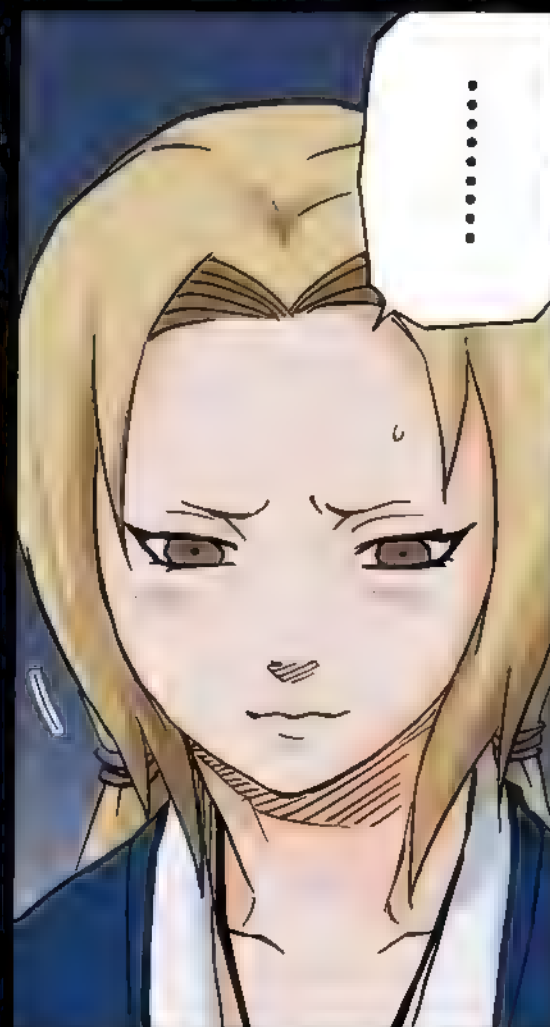
UM...

IN THE
OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.

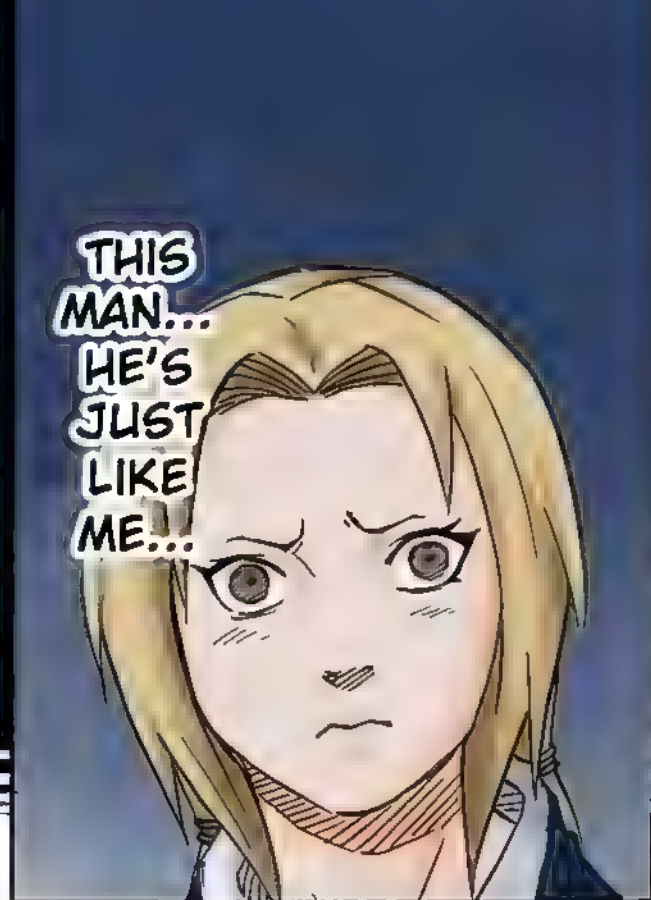


...NO,
REALLY...
I WANTED TO
TALK TO YOU
ANYWAY...

THEN
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.



.....



THIS
MAN...
HE'S
JUST
LIKE
ME...



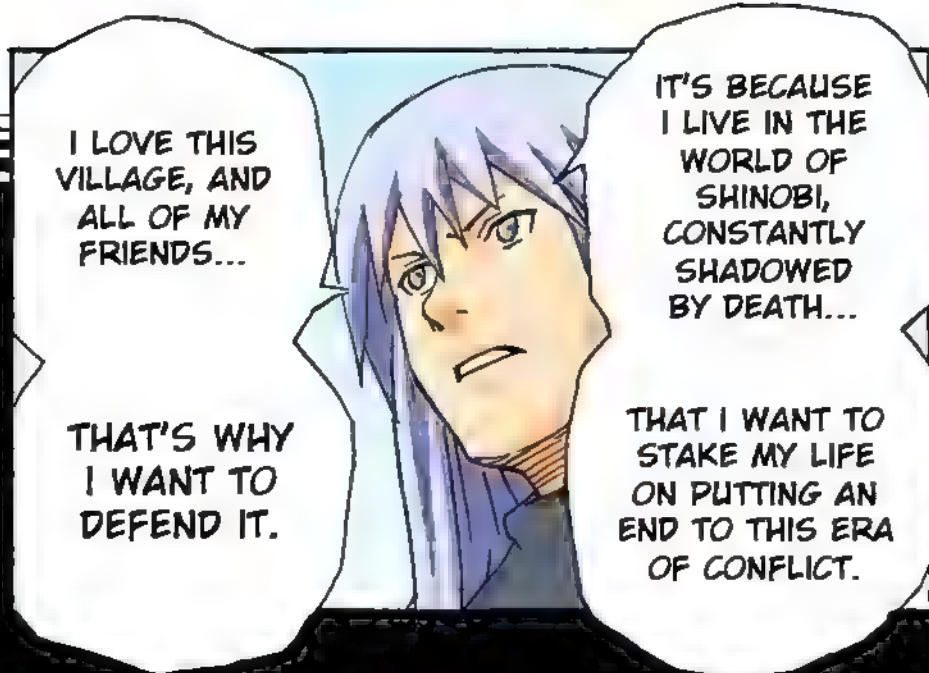
THIS WAS THE
STREET I USED
TO ALWAYS TAKE
ESCORTING MY
LITTLE SISTER
TO THE
ACADEMY.

AND
BESIDES...

IT'S MY
FAVORITE
PATH.



TOMORROW,
OUR MISSIONS
WILL TAKE US
TO THE FRONT
LINE...



I LOVE THIS
VILLAGE, AND
ALL OF MY
FRIENDS...

THAT'S WHY
I WANT TO
DEFEND IT.

IT'S BECAUSE
I LIVE IN THE
WORLD OF
SHINOBI,
CONSTANTLY
SHADOWED
BY DEATH...

THAT I WANT TO
STAKE MY LIFE
ON PUTTING AN
END TO THIS ERA
OF CONFLICT.



THAT'S
WHY I
WANT TO
BECOME
HOKAGE...

SINCE
THE DAY
MY LITTLE
SISTER
DIED...

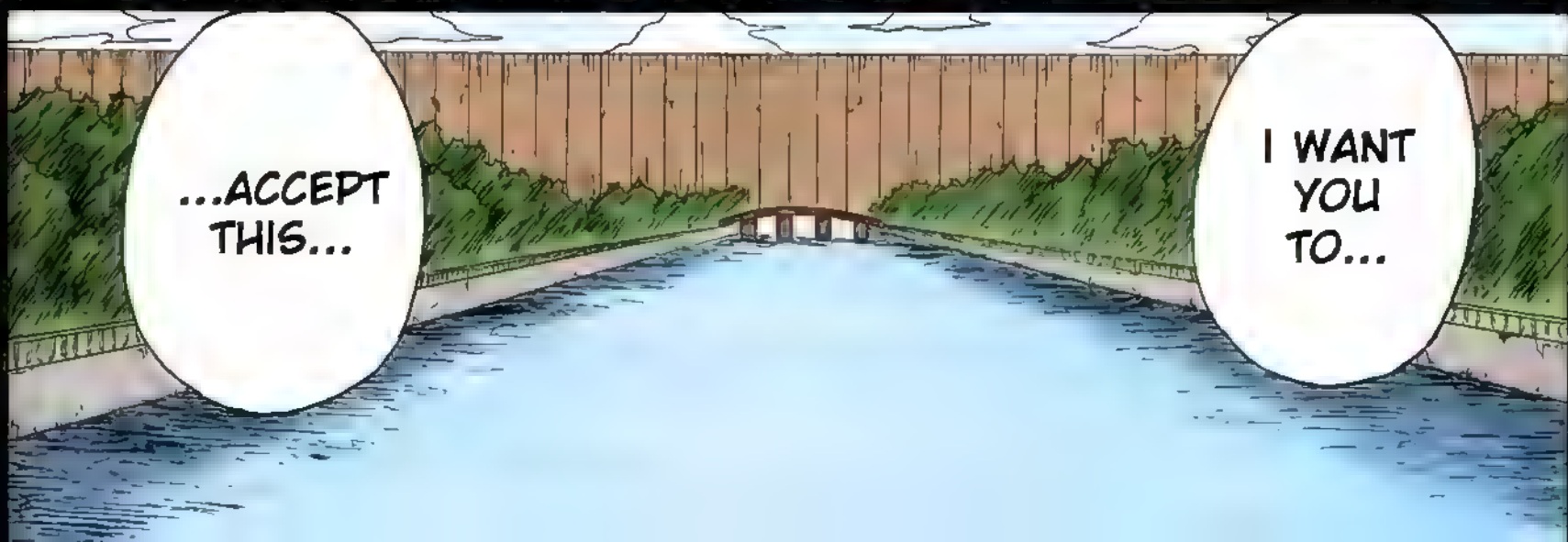
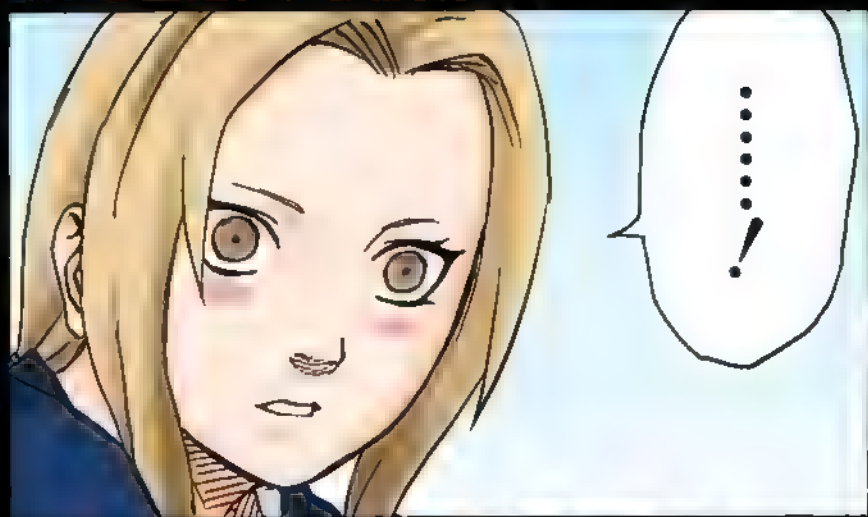
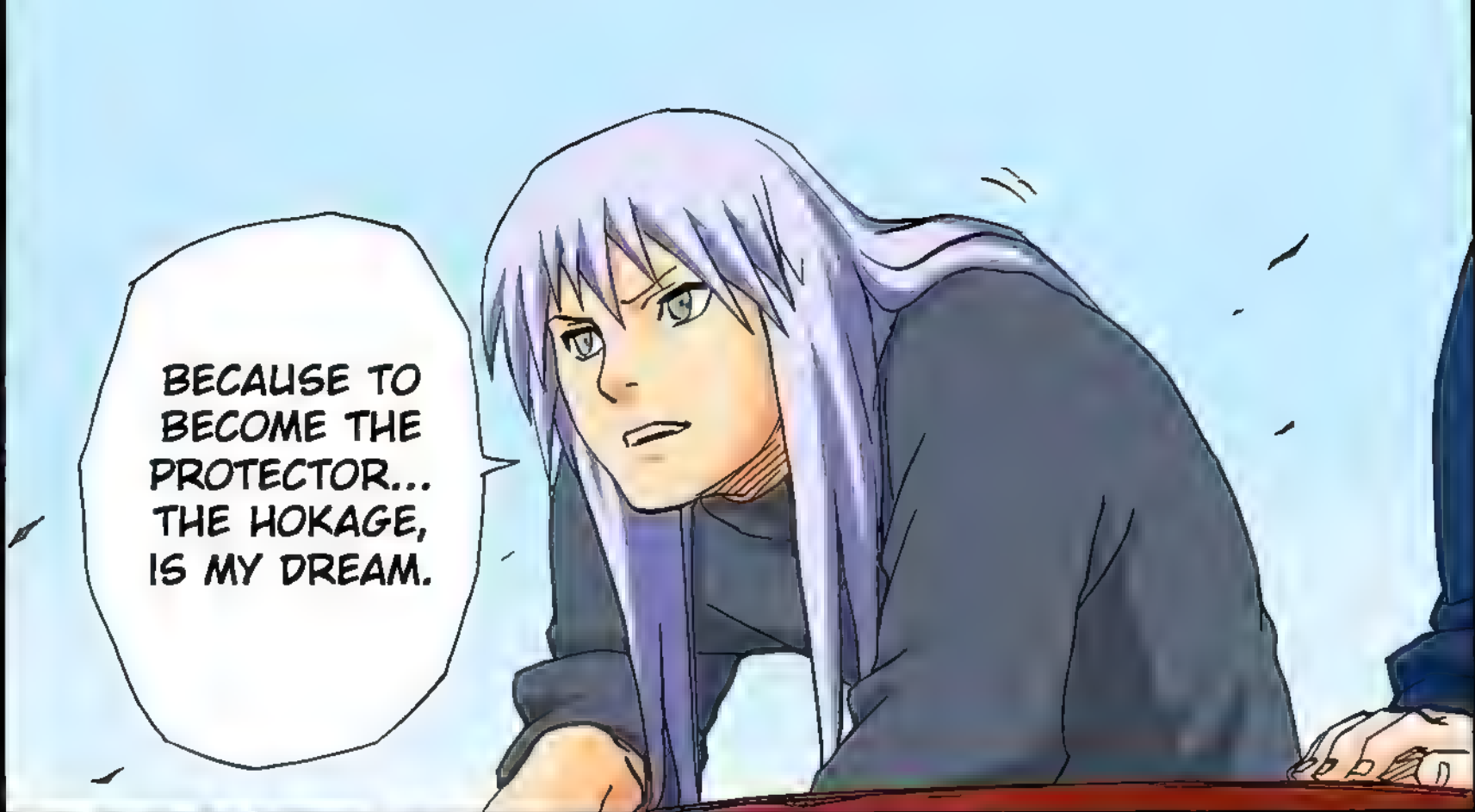
THIS
THOUGHT IS
THE ONLY
THING THAT'S
BEEN
KEEPING ME
GOING.

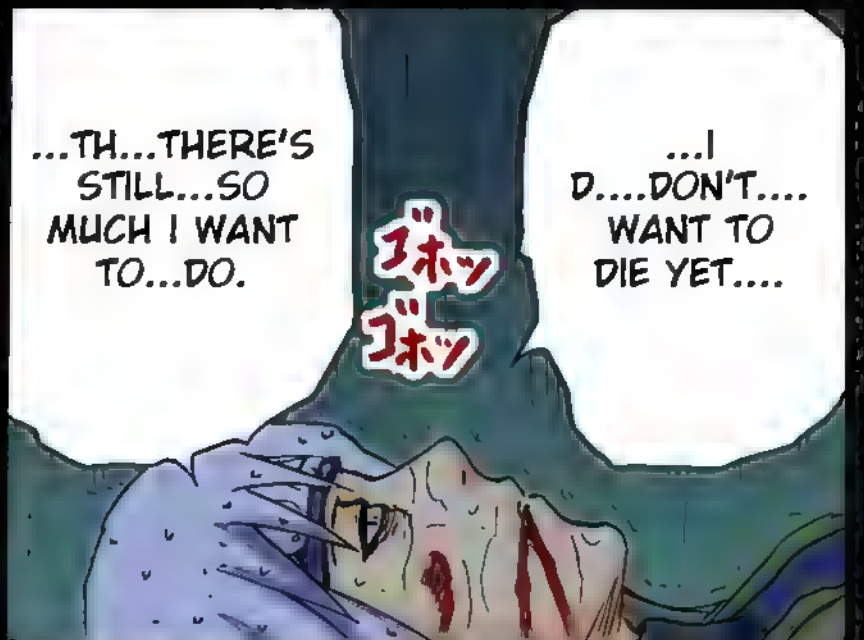
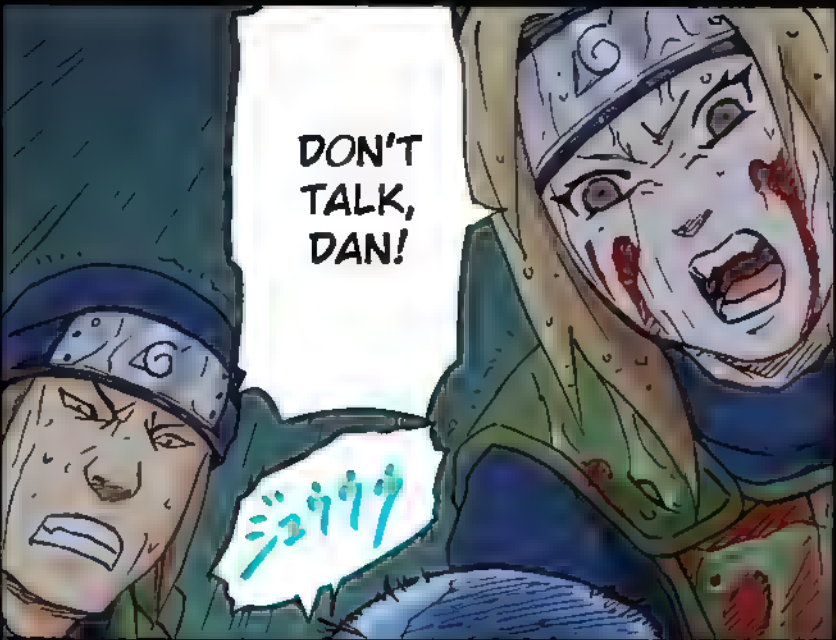


...ISN'T
THE ONLY
JOB OF A
SHINOBI,
YOU KNOW.

TO FIGHT
AND LOSE
THOSE WE
LOVE...

...I
KNOW...





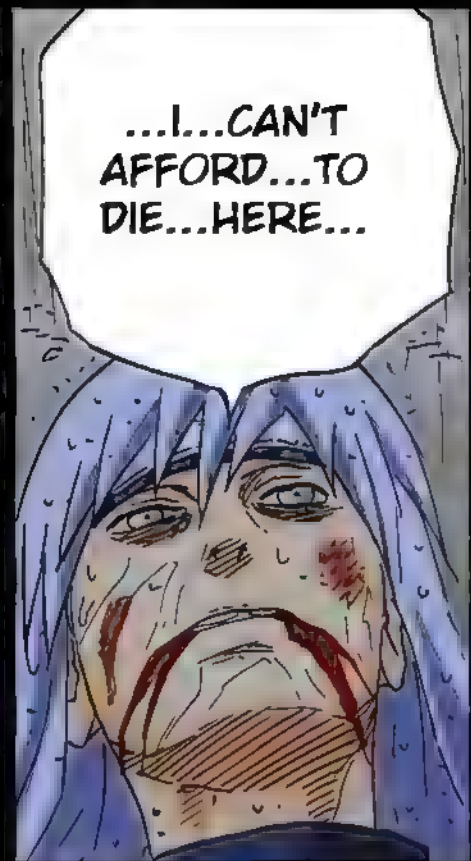


...REALLY...?
OH,
GOOD...

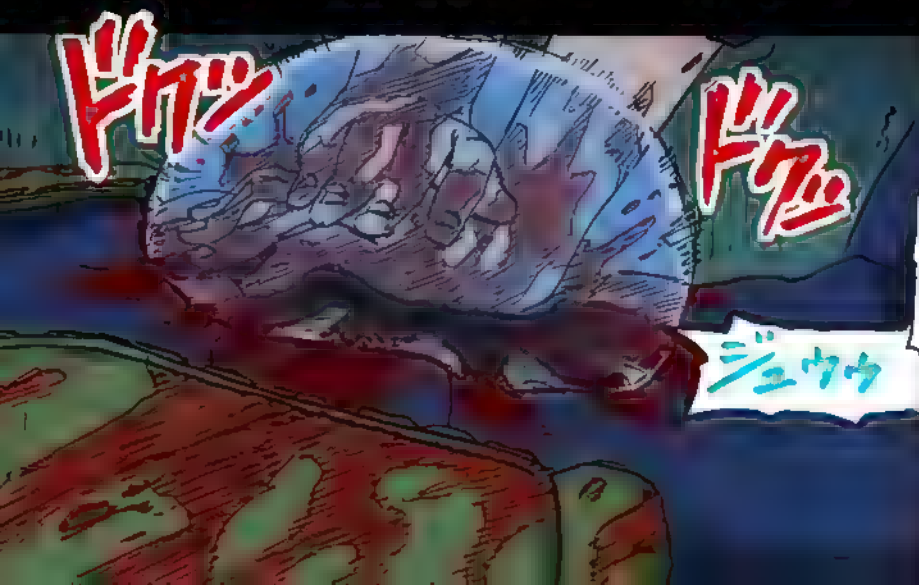
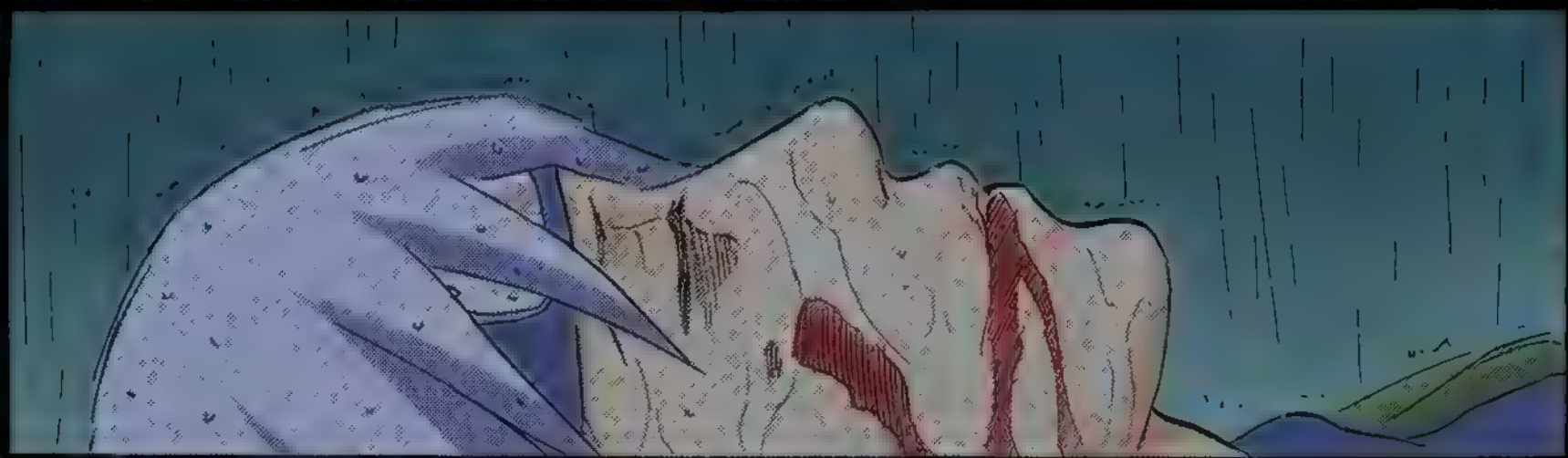
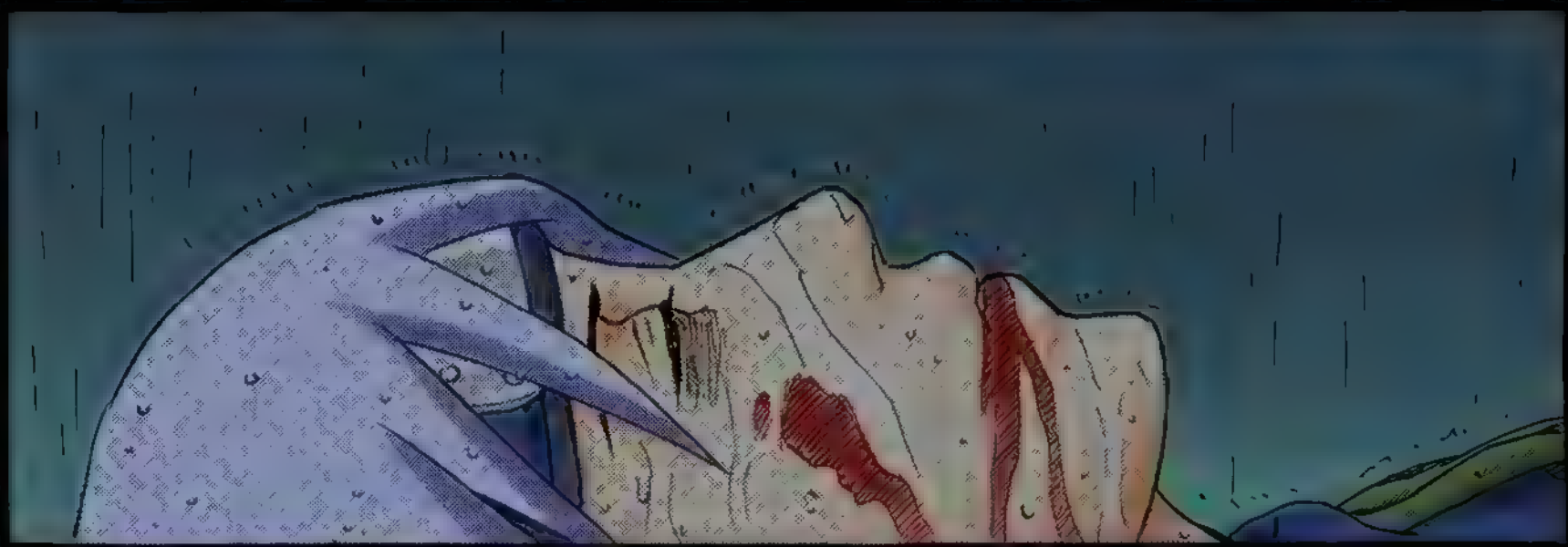


...YOU'RE
IN THE
CLEAR
NOW...
YOU'LL
HEAL,
DAN!

DON'T
WORRY, I'VE
STOPPED
THE
BLEEDING!



...I...CAN'T
AFFORD...TO
DIE...HERE...



ENOUGH,
HE'S
DEAD
ALREADY!

***I SAID,
STOP
IT...!!***

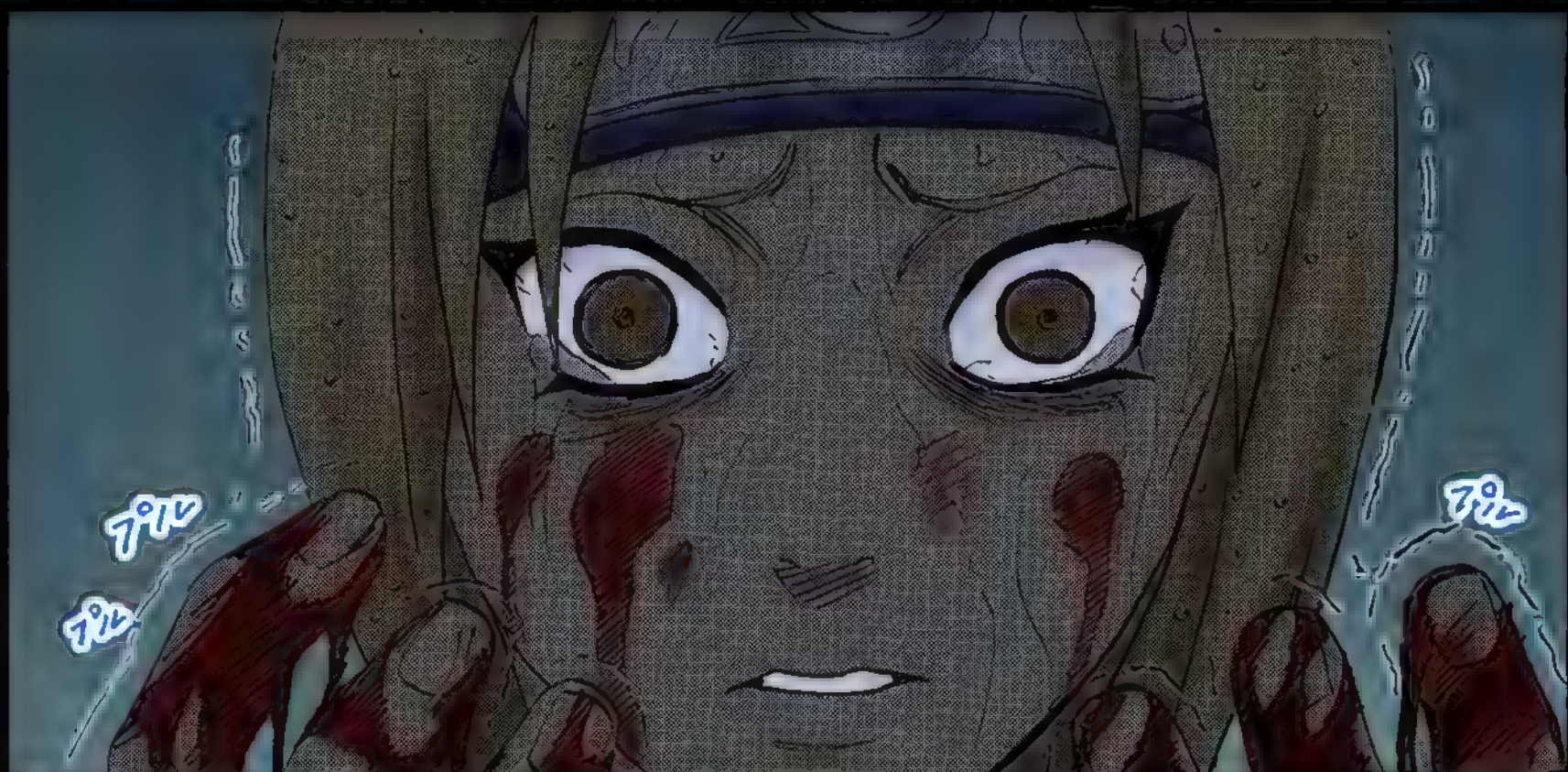
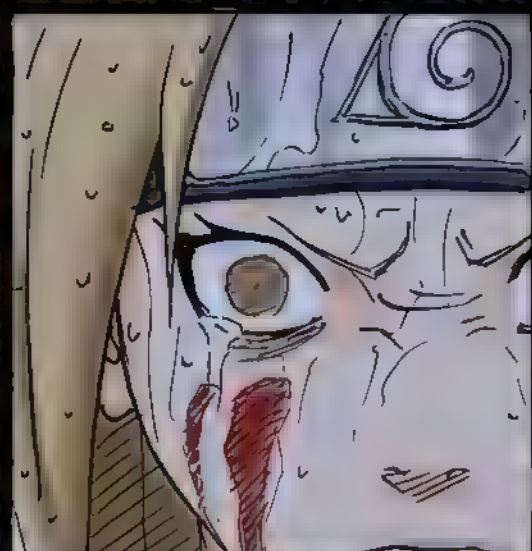
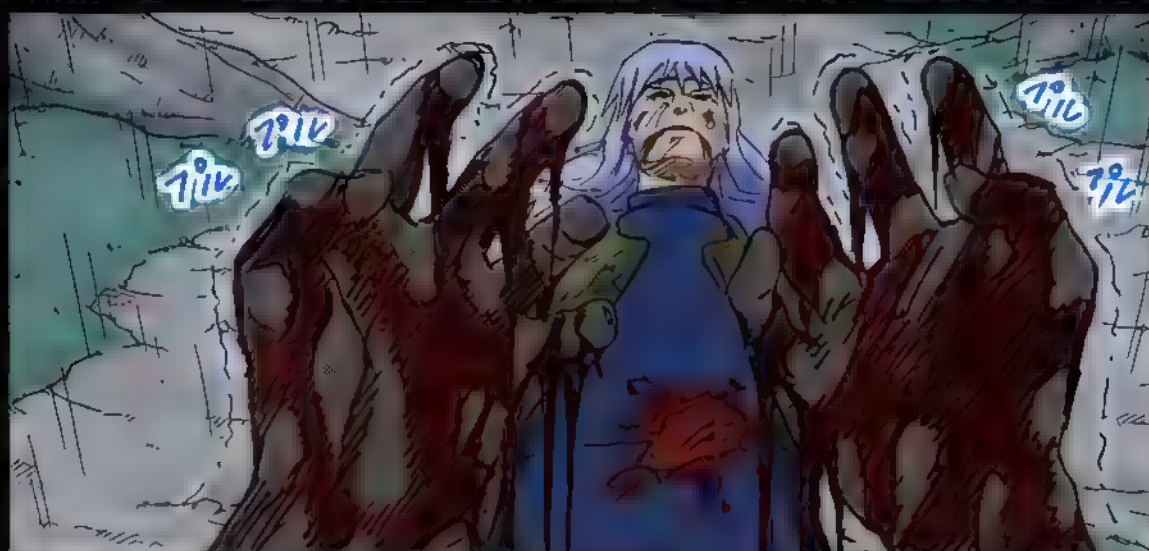
STOP!

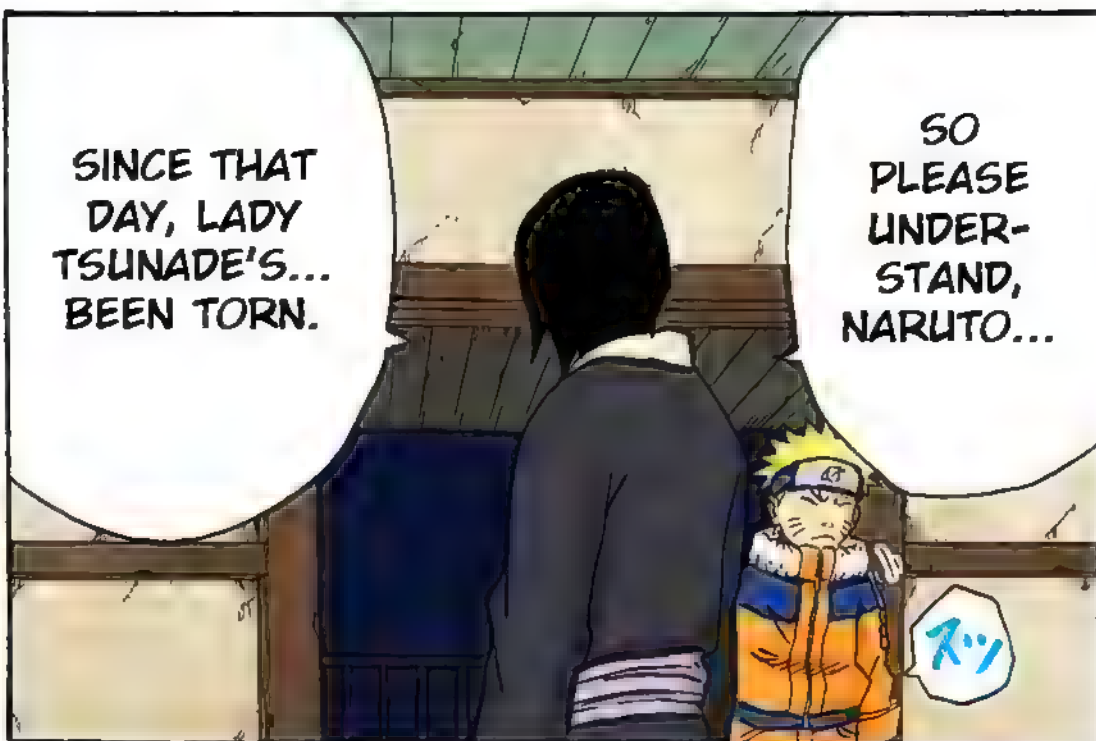
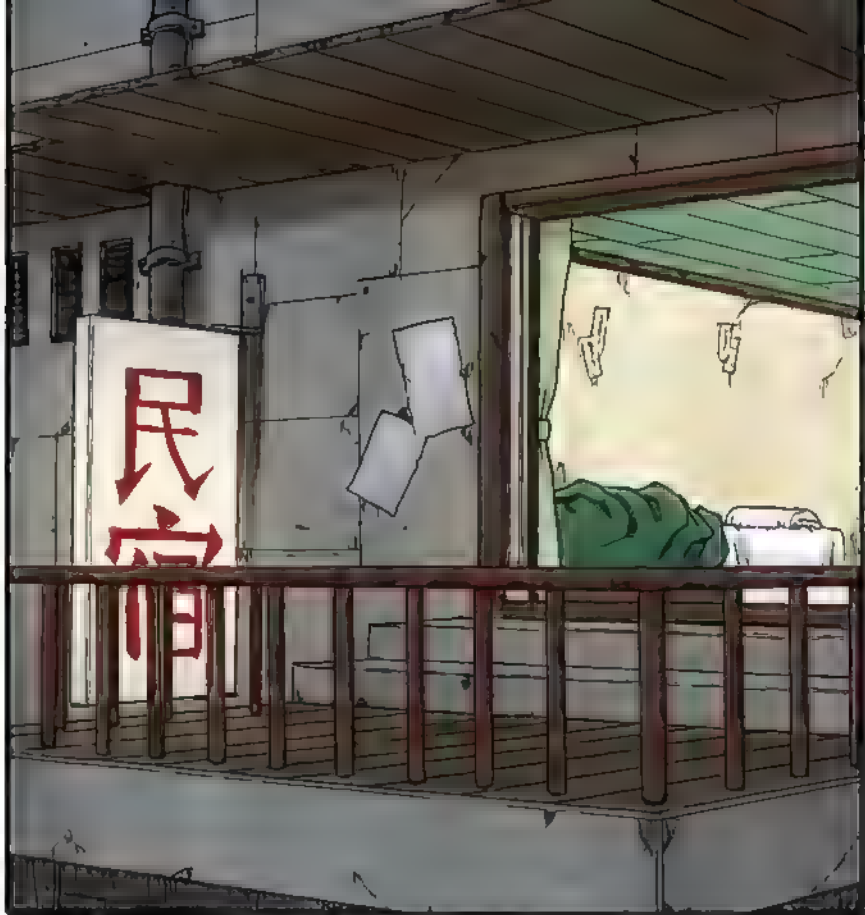
STOP
IT...!

STOP
IT...
STOP
SPURT-
ING...!

STOP!

STOP!

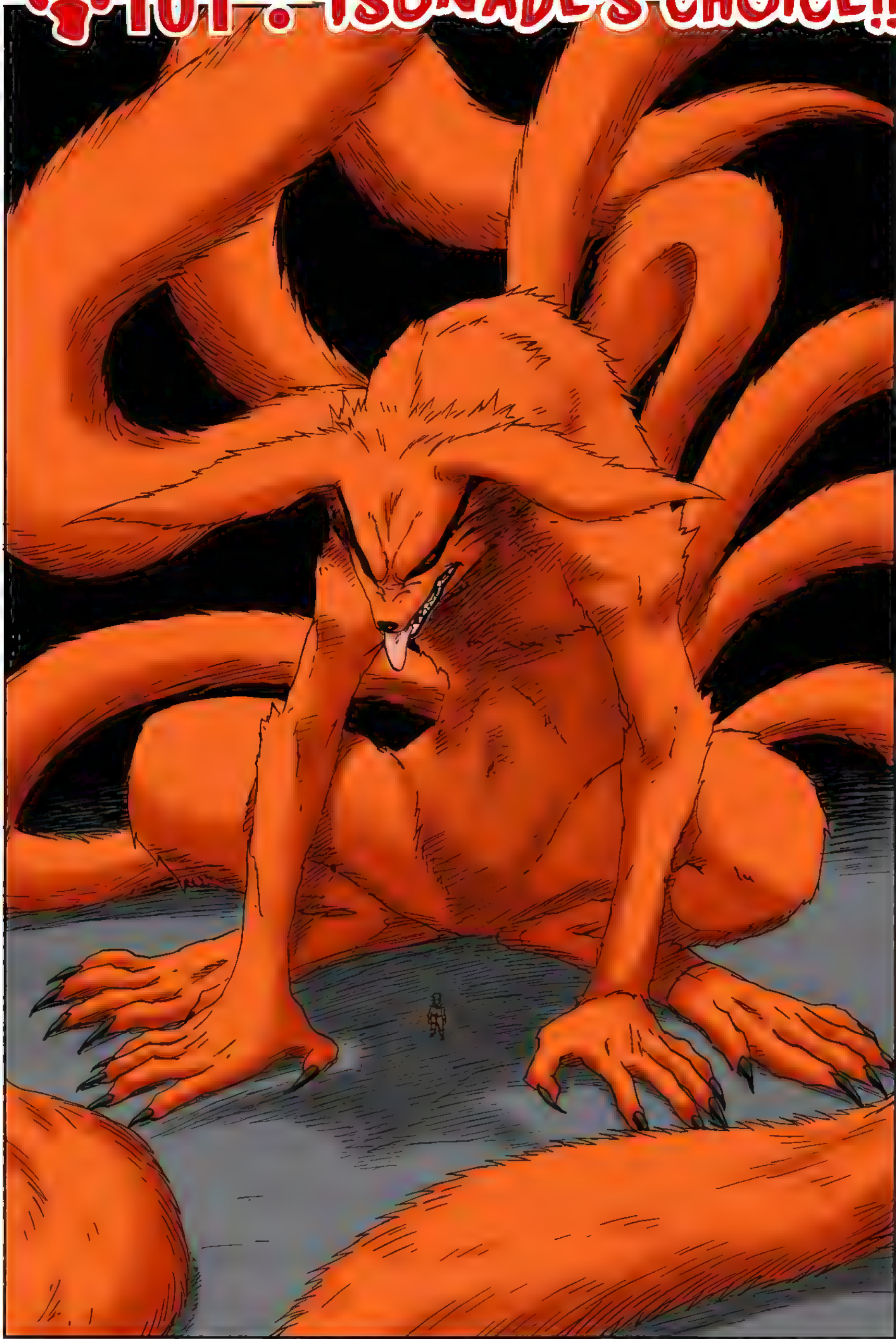


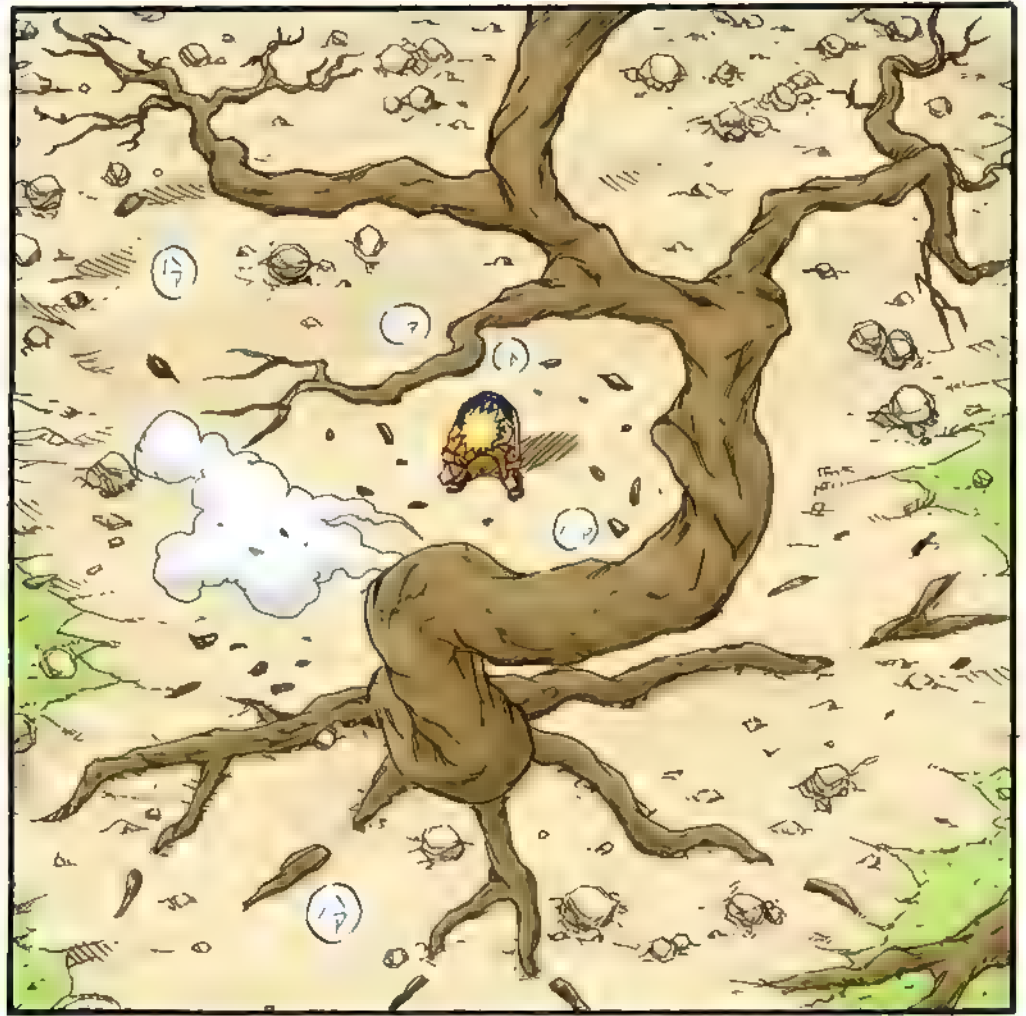
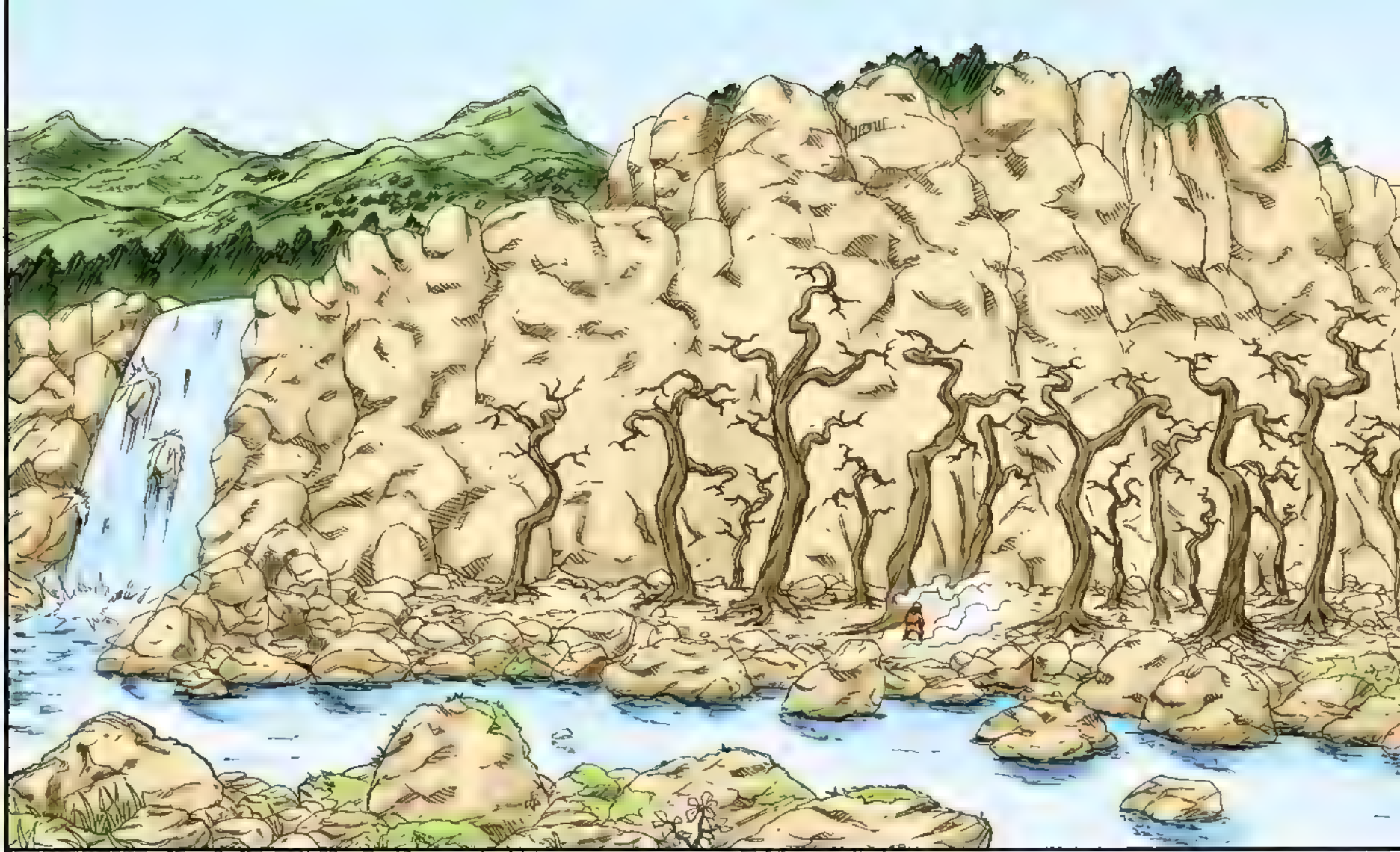


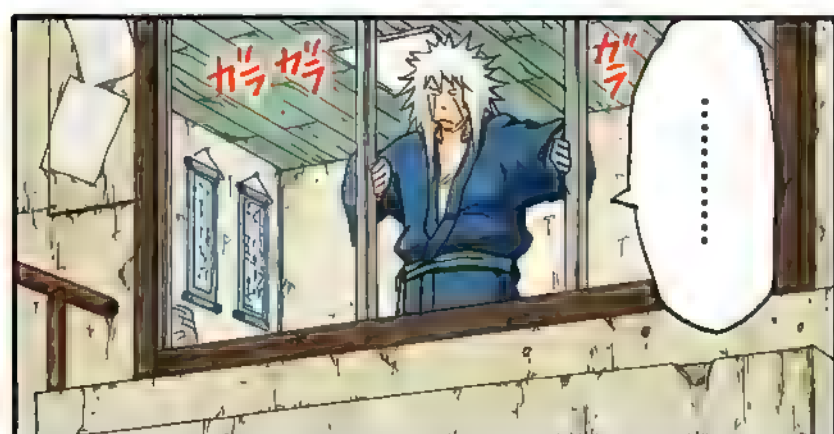
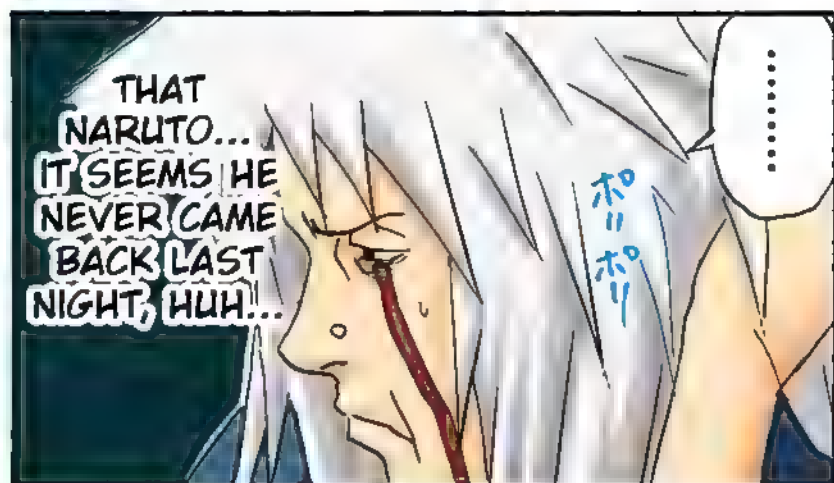
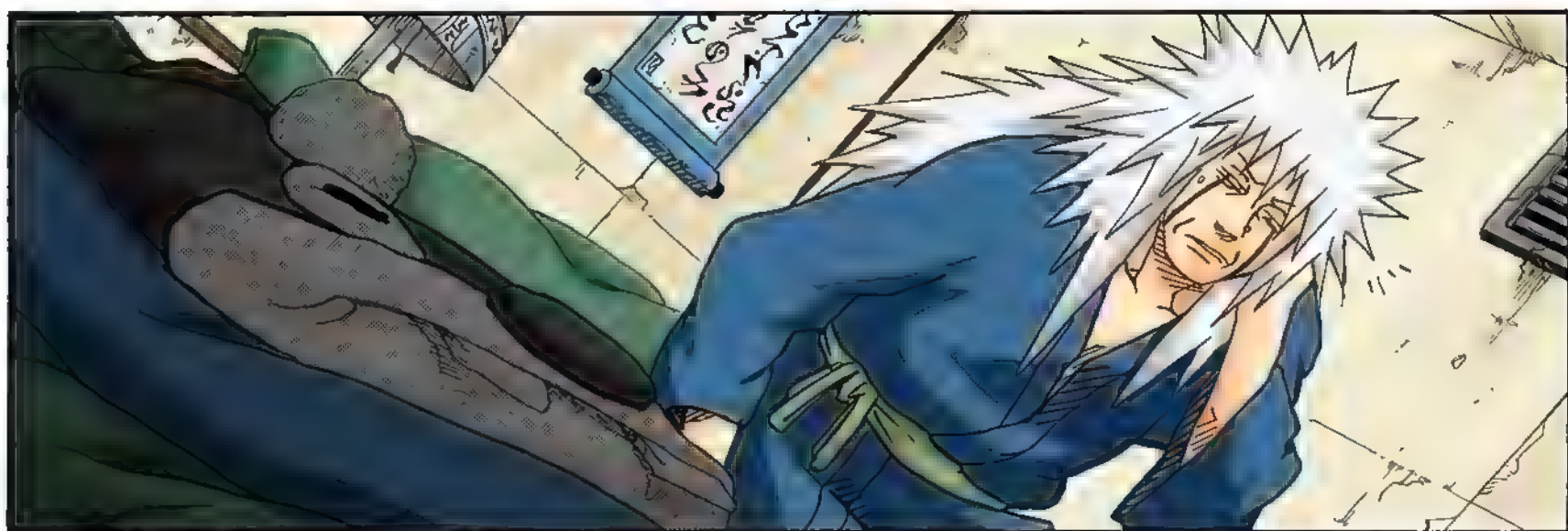
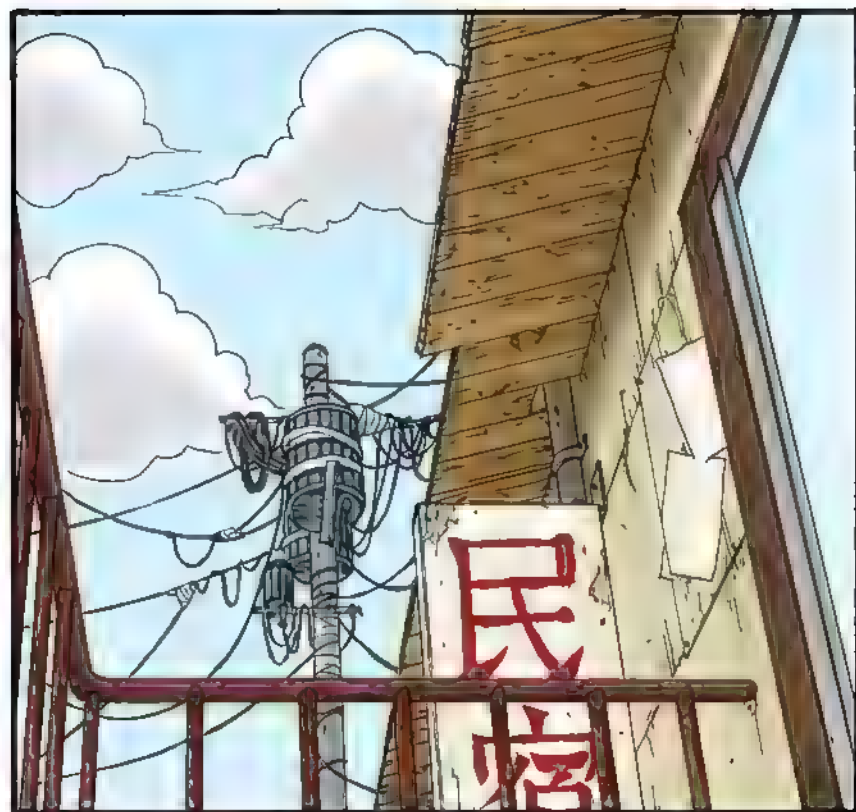
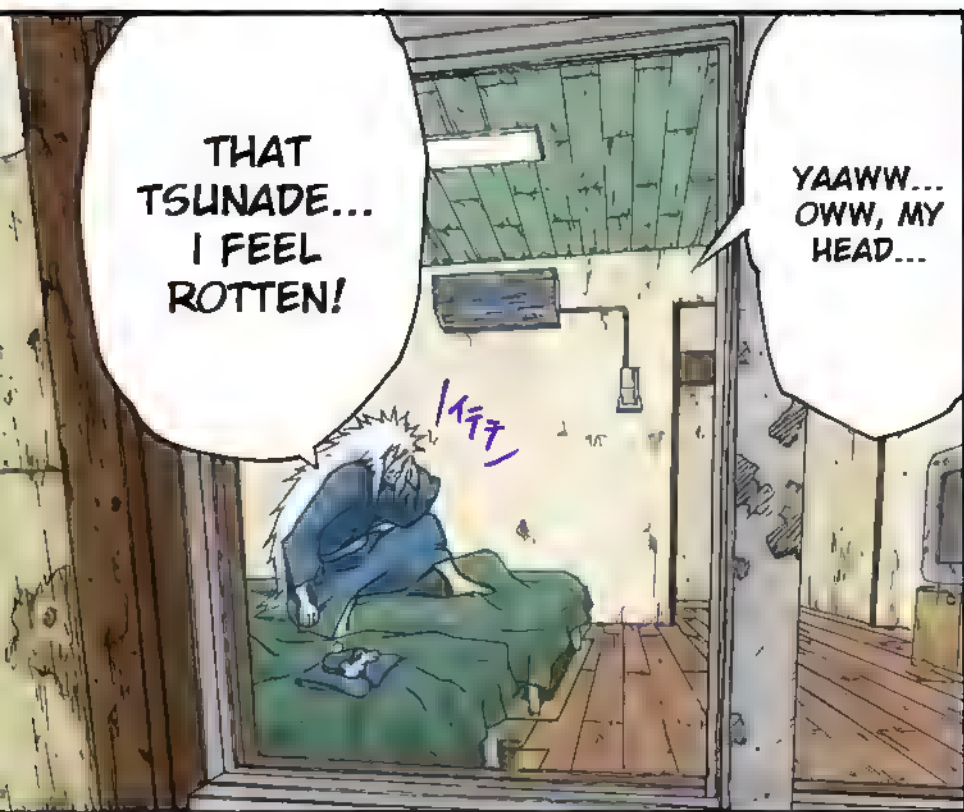
ナンバー

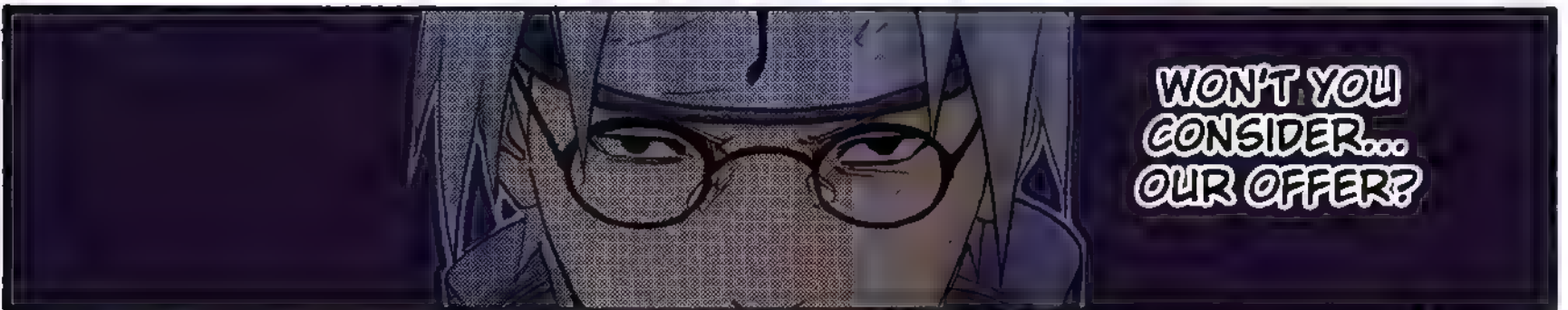
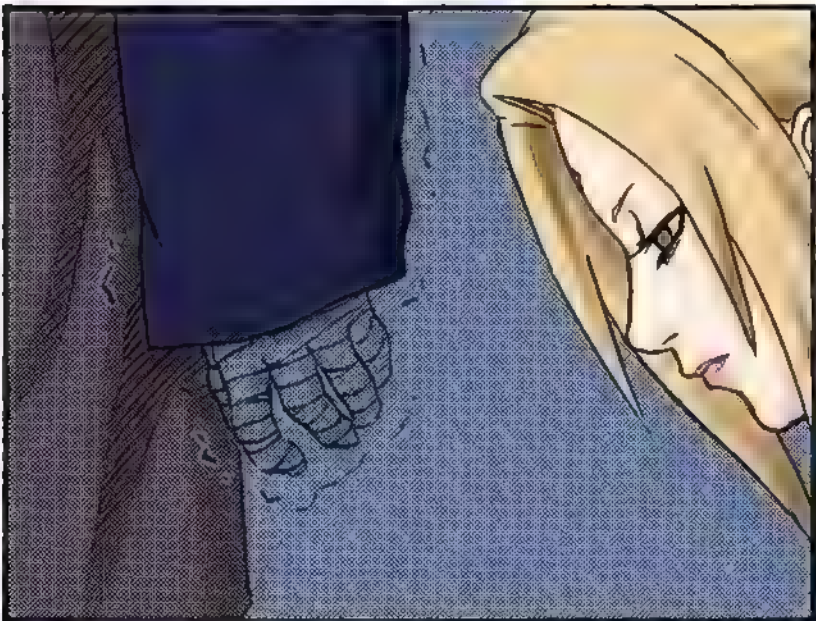


161 : TSUNADE'S CHOICE!!



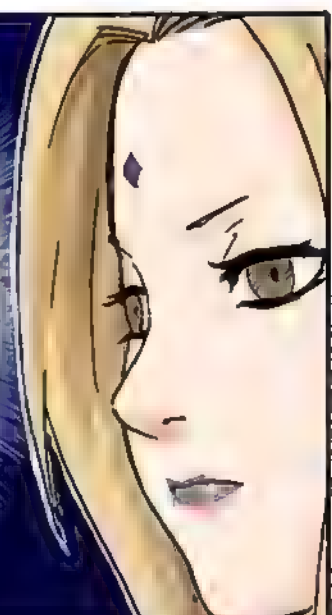




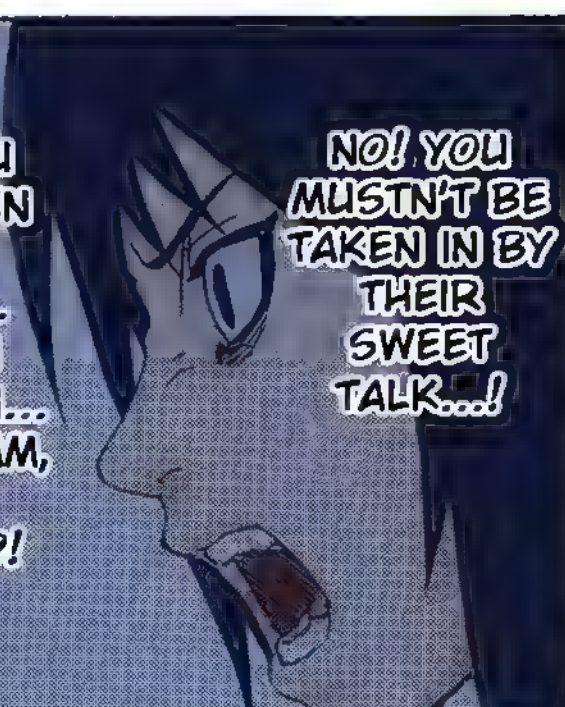
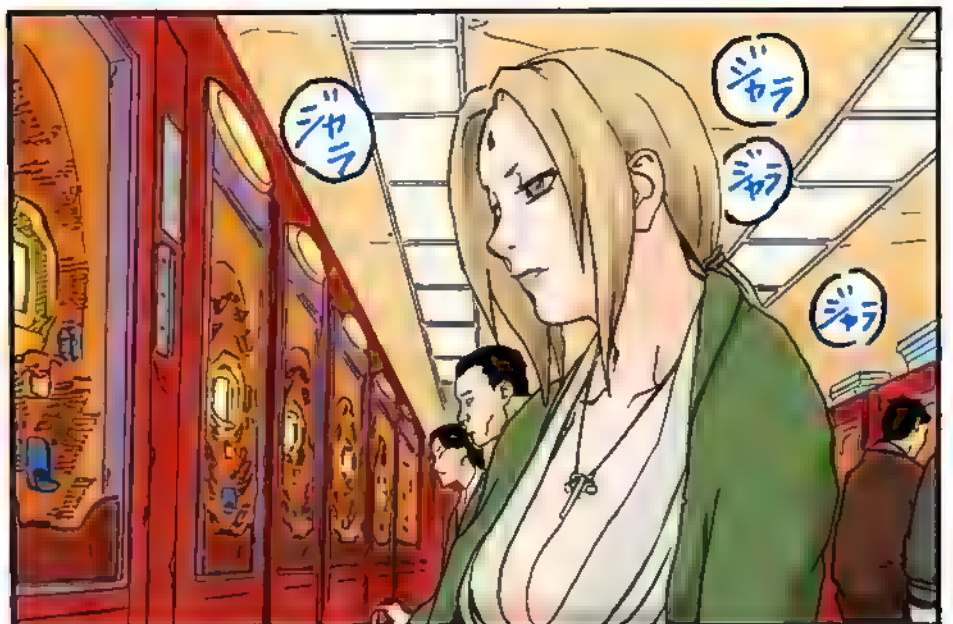




DON'T YOU
WANT TO SEE
THEM AGAIN,
TSUNADE...?

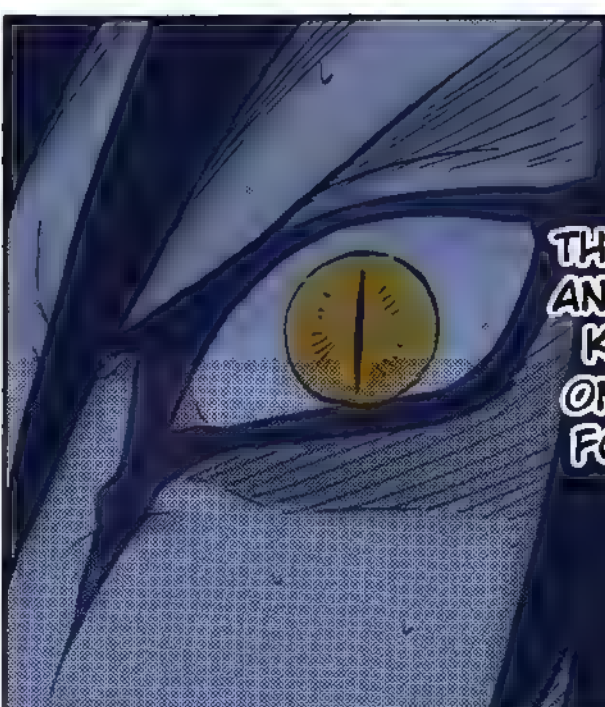


...SUPPOSE I
FIX THOSE
ARMS...WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
DO?

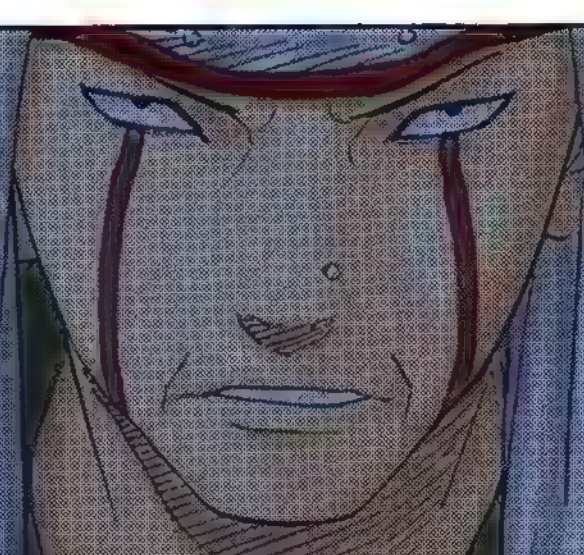


HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THEIR
WISHES...
OR EVEN
YOUR WISH...
YOUR DREAM,
LADY
TSUNADE?!

NO! YOU
MUSTN'T BE
TAKEN IN BY
THEIR
SWEET
TALK...!

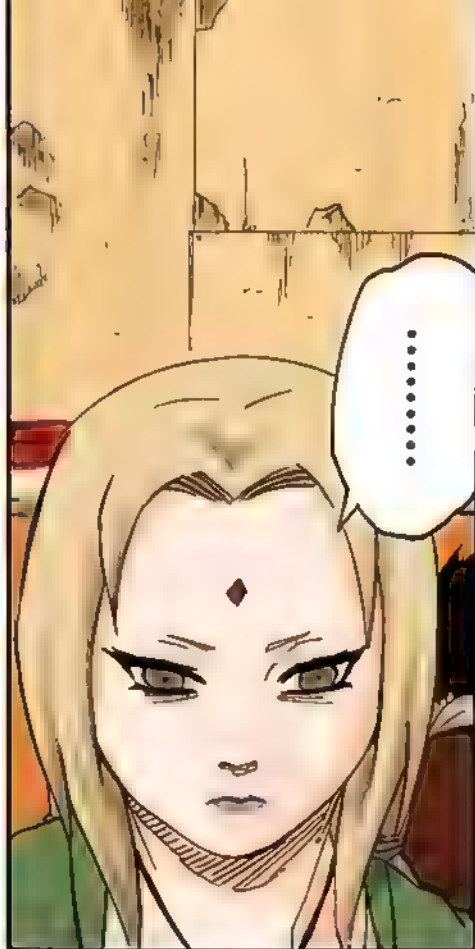


THIS TIME I
ANNIHILATE
KONOH
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.



...THE VILLAGE
REQUESTS THAT
YOU ACCEPT THE
TITLE OF FIFTH
HOKAGE.

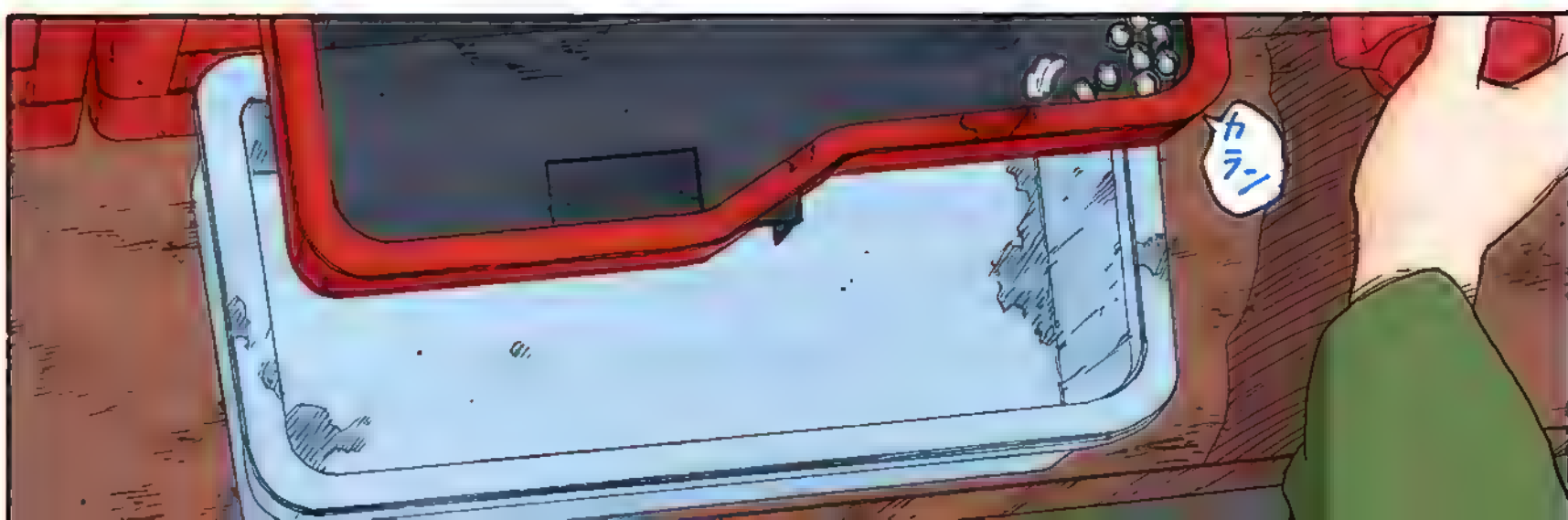
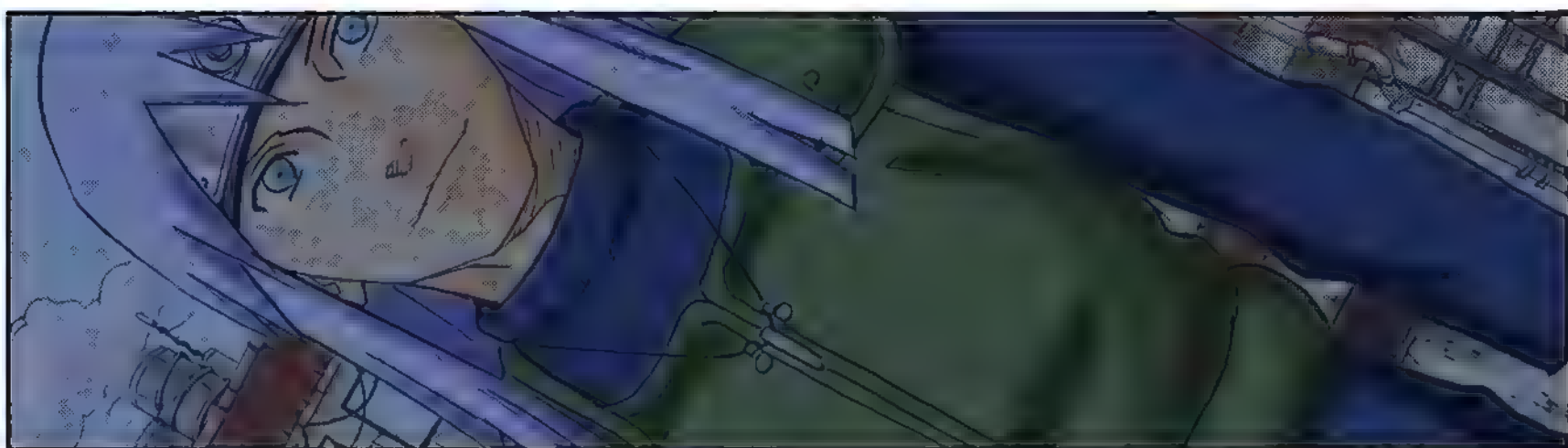
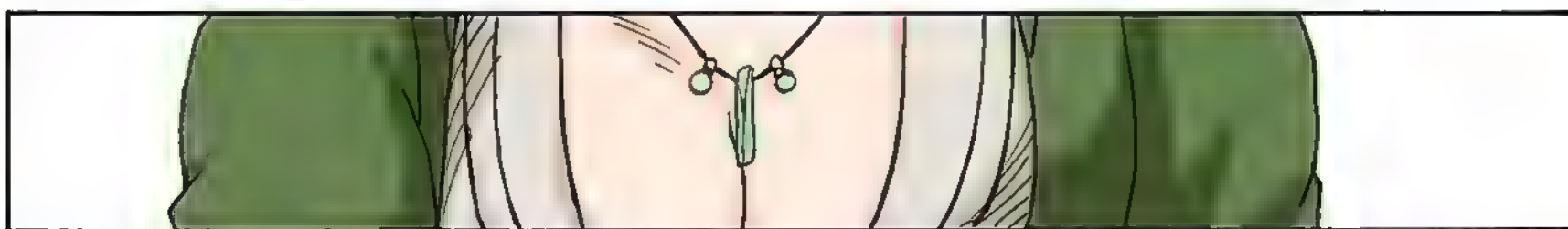
I'LL LAY IT
STRAIGHT,
TSUNADE...

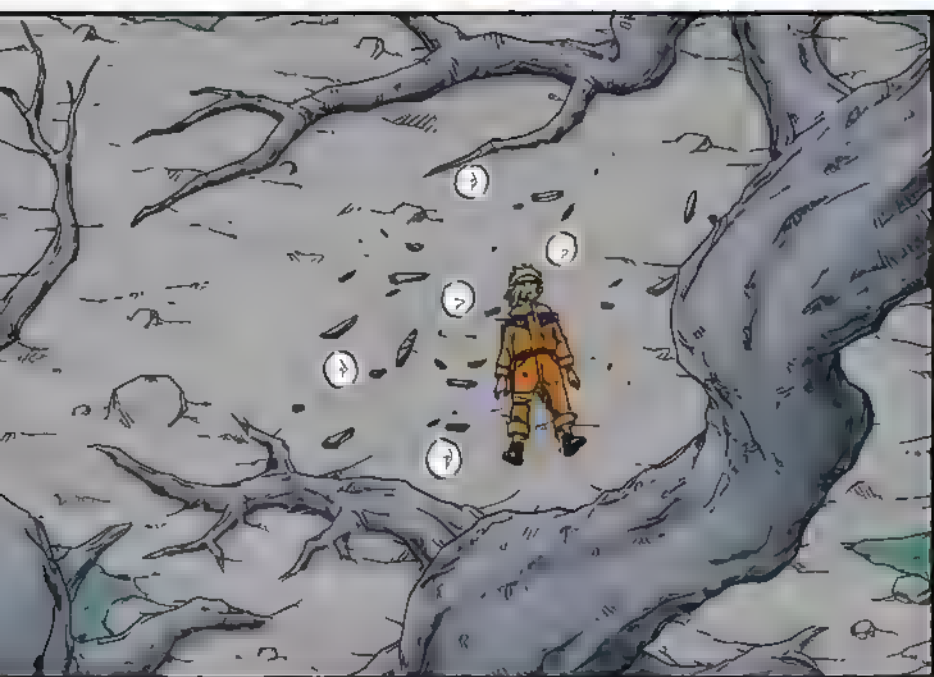
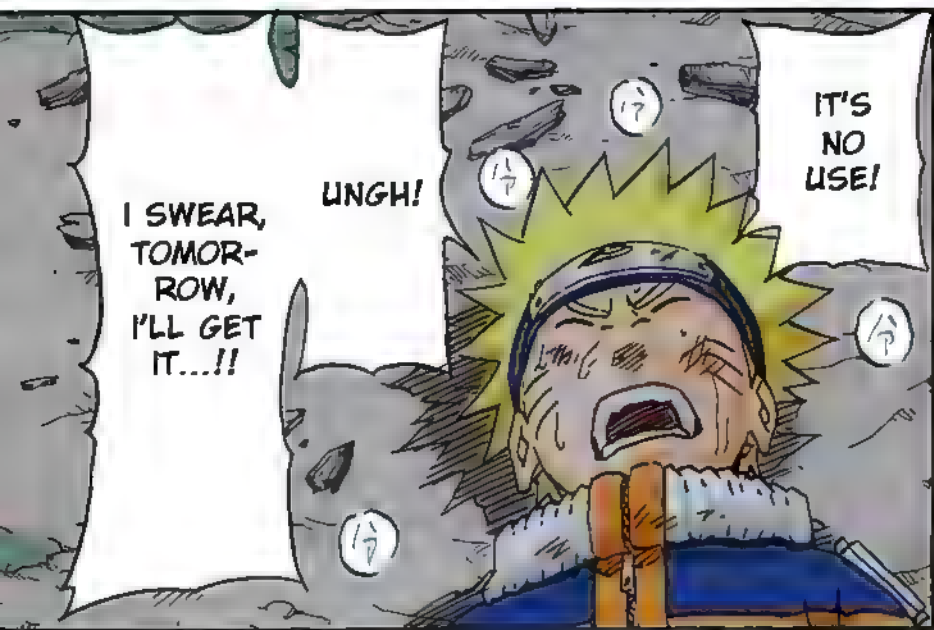


...THAT
WAS THE
DREAM
THEY
FOUGHT
FOR!

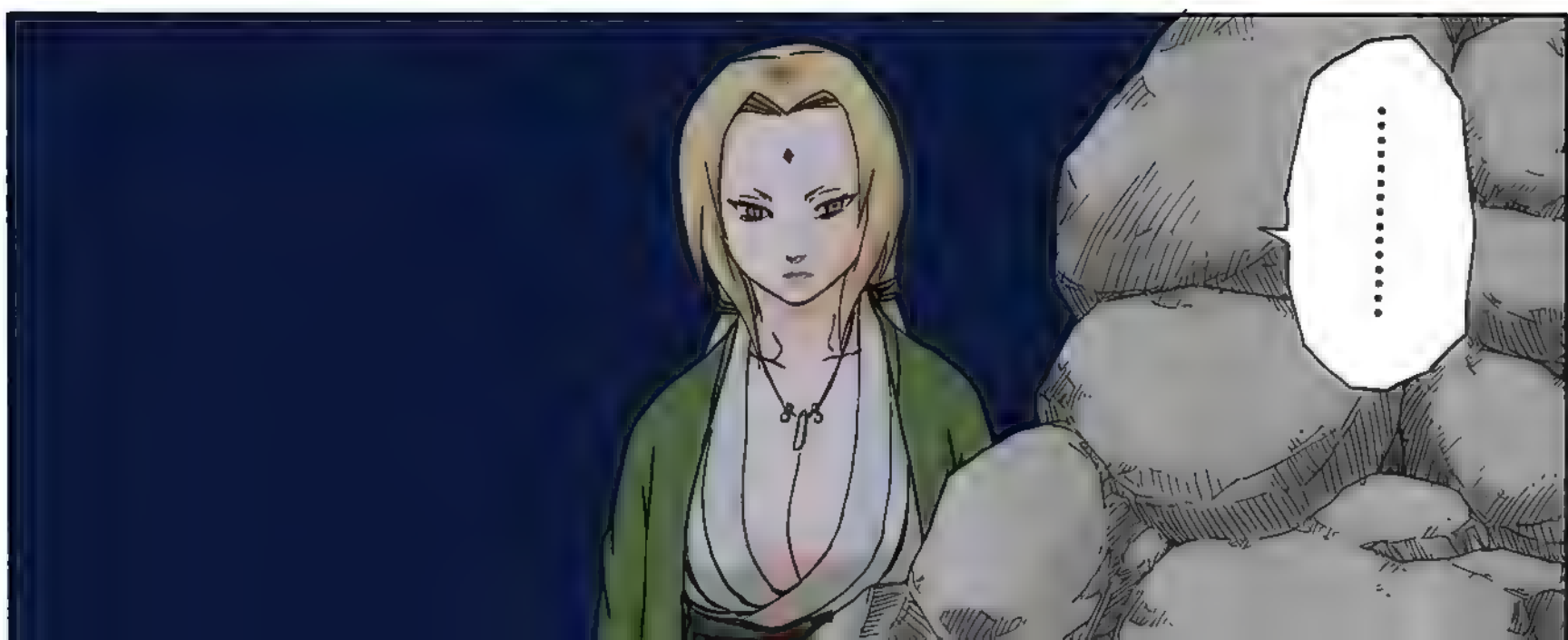
...THEY
WANTED AN
END TO
TURBULENT
DAYS AND
TO SEE THE
VILLAGE
PROSPER. IT
WAS THOSE
IDEALS...

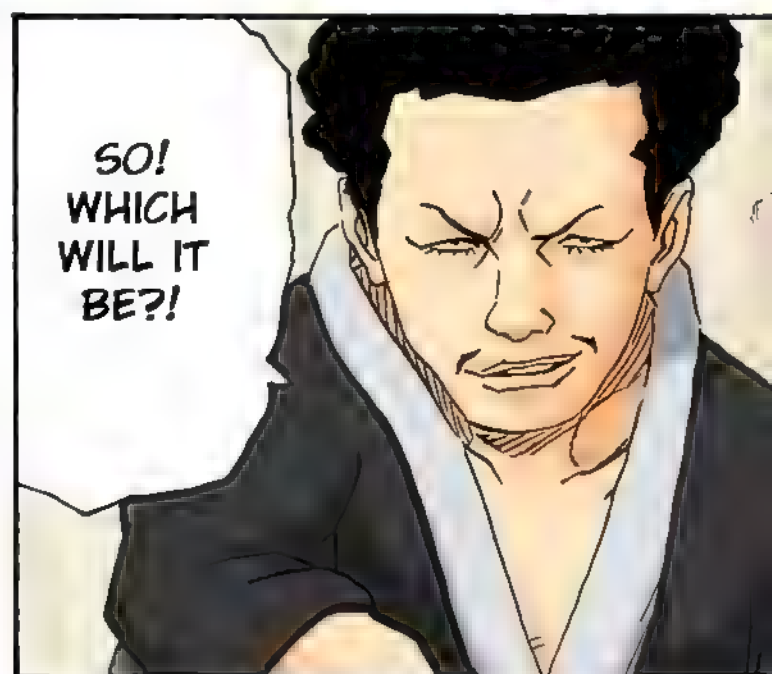
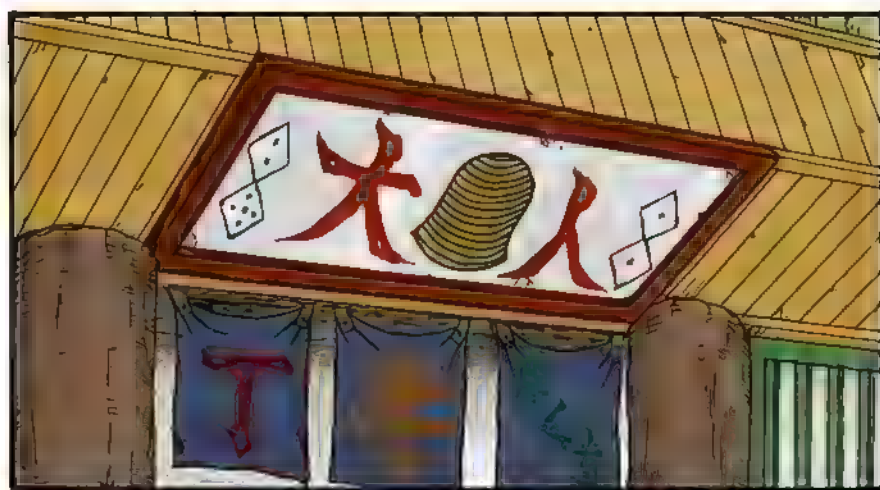
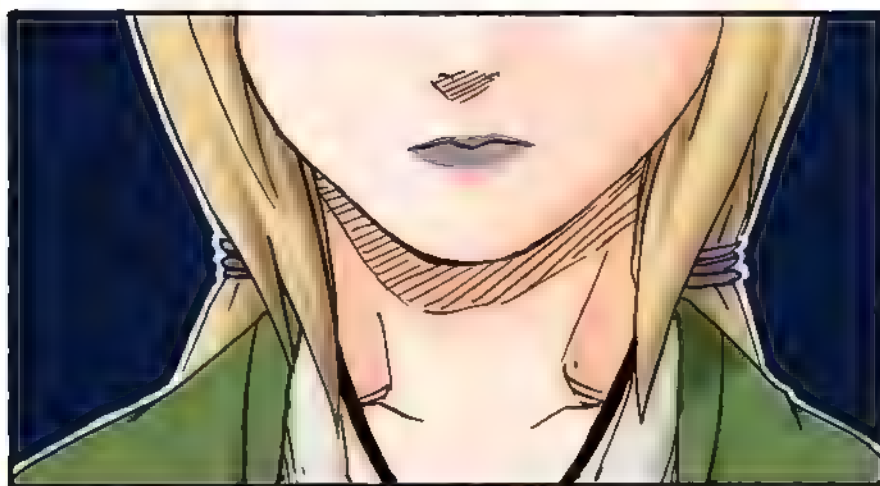
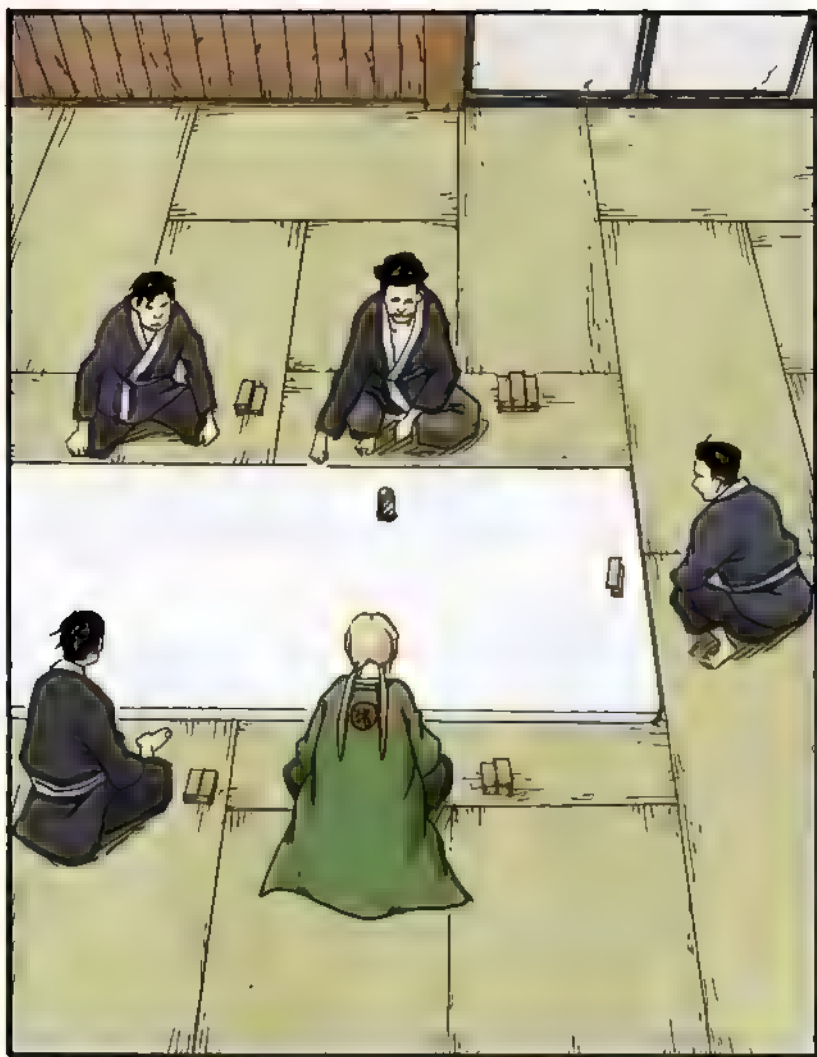
EVERY ONE OF
THE PREVIOUS
HOKAGE
RISKED THEIR
LIVES TO
PROTECT THE
VILLAGE OF
KONOHGA AND
ALL THOSE
WHO LIVE
THERE...

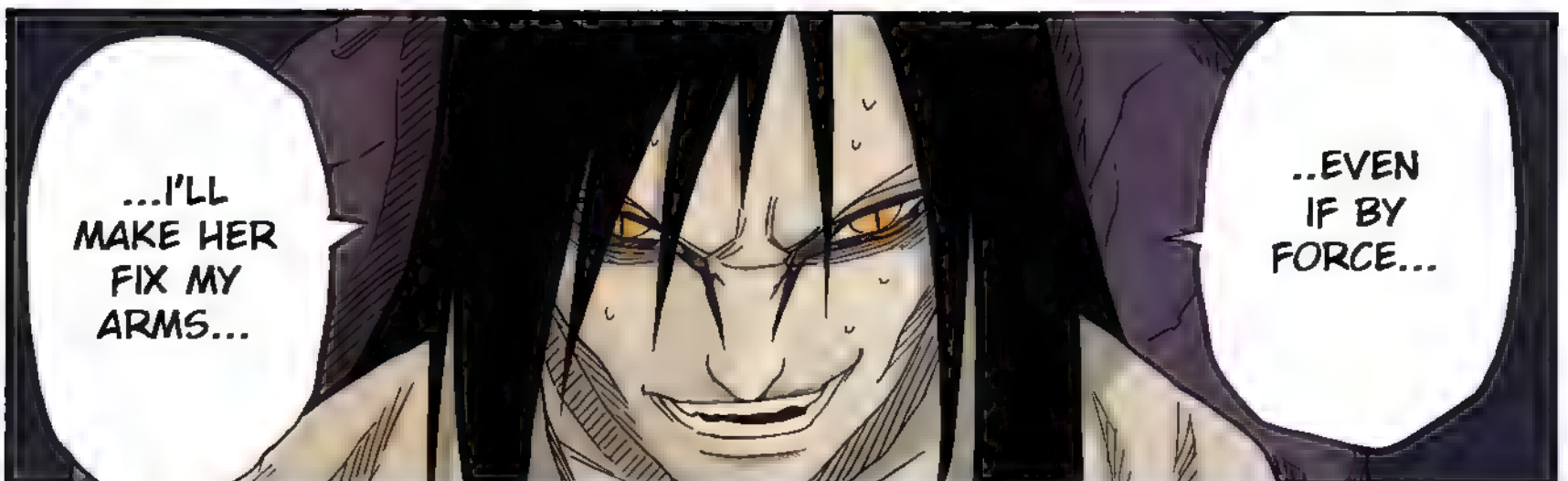
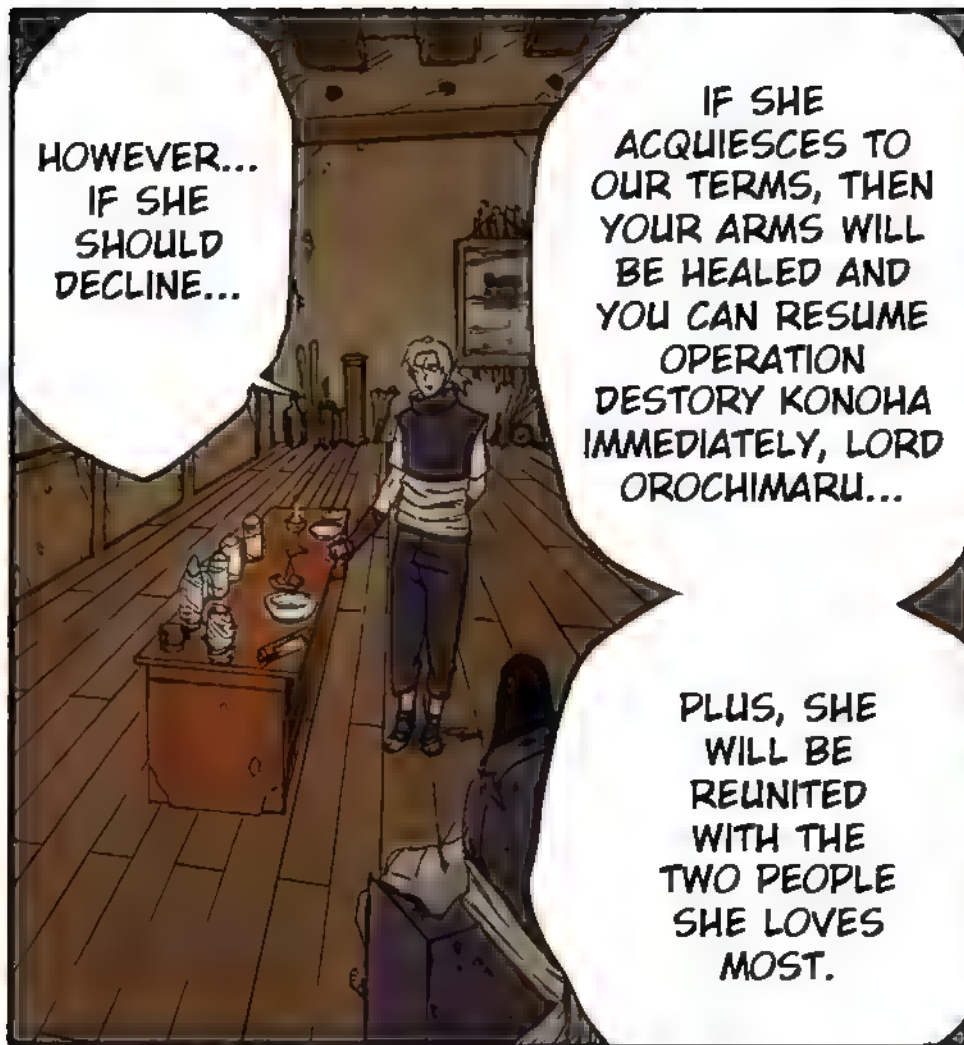


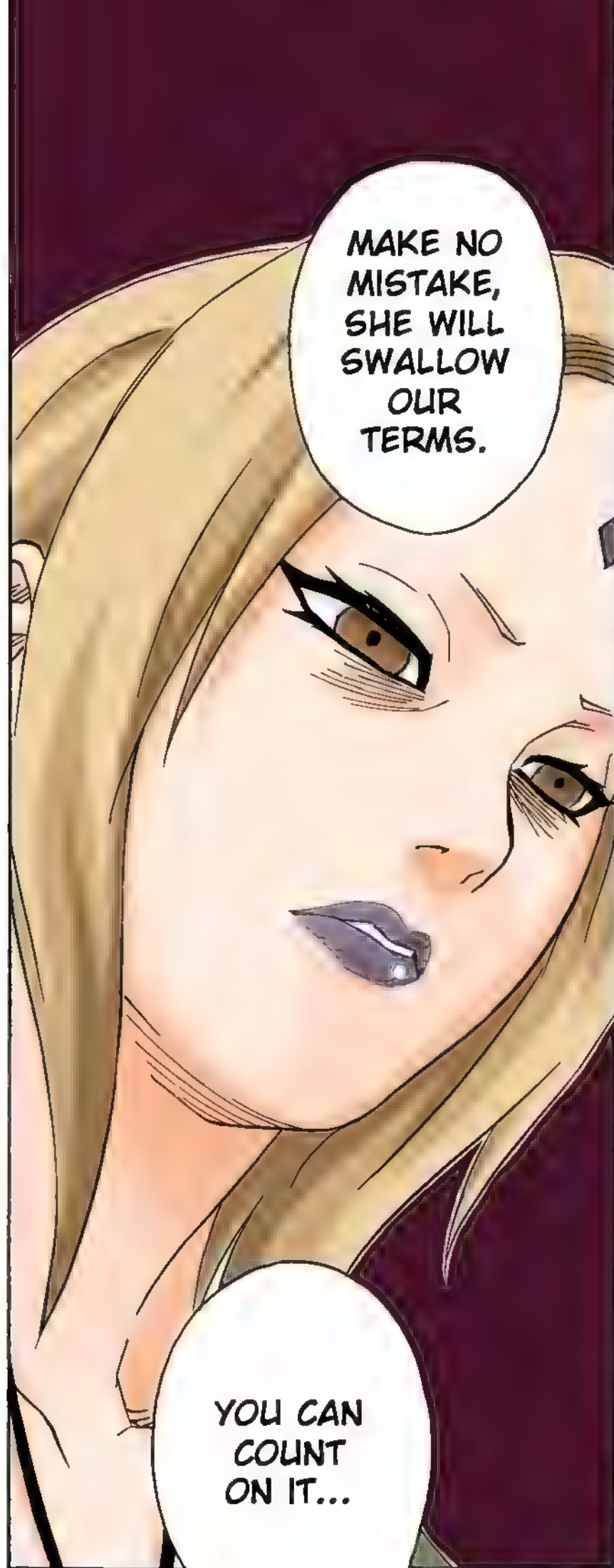


THE
SECOND
NIGHT
AFTER THE
WAGER
WITH
TSUNADE...









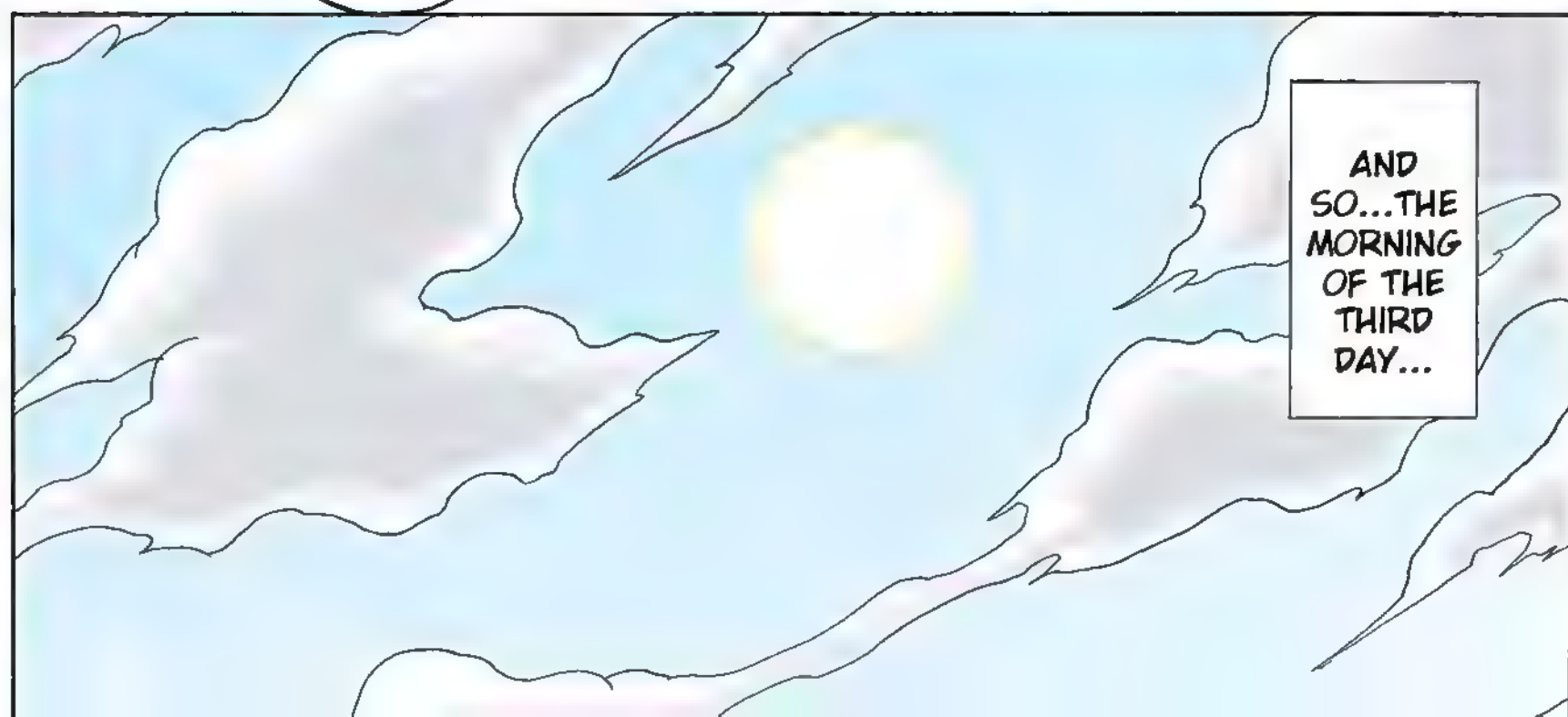
MAKE NO
MISTAKE,
SHE WILL
SWALLOW
OUR
TERMS.

YOU CAN
COUNT
ON IT...

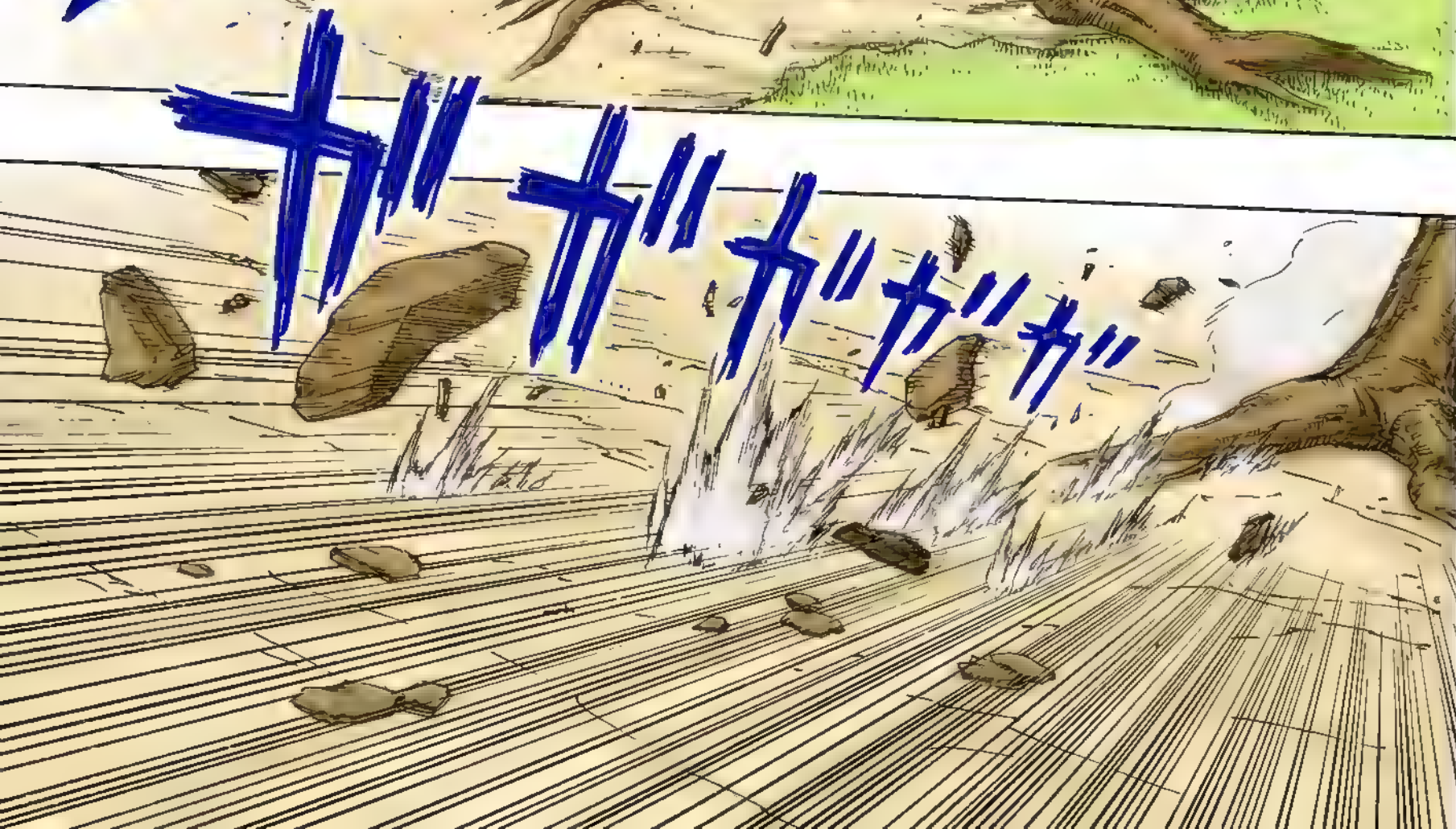
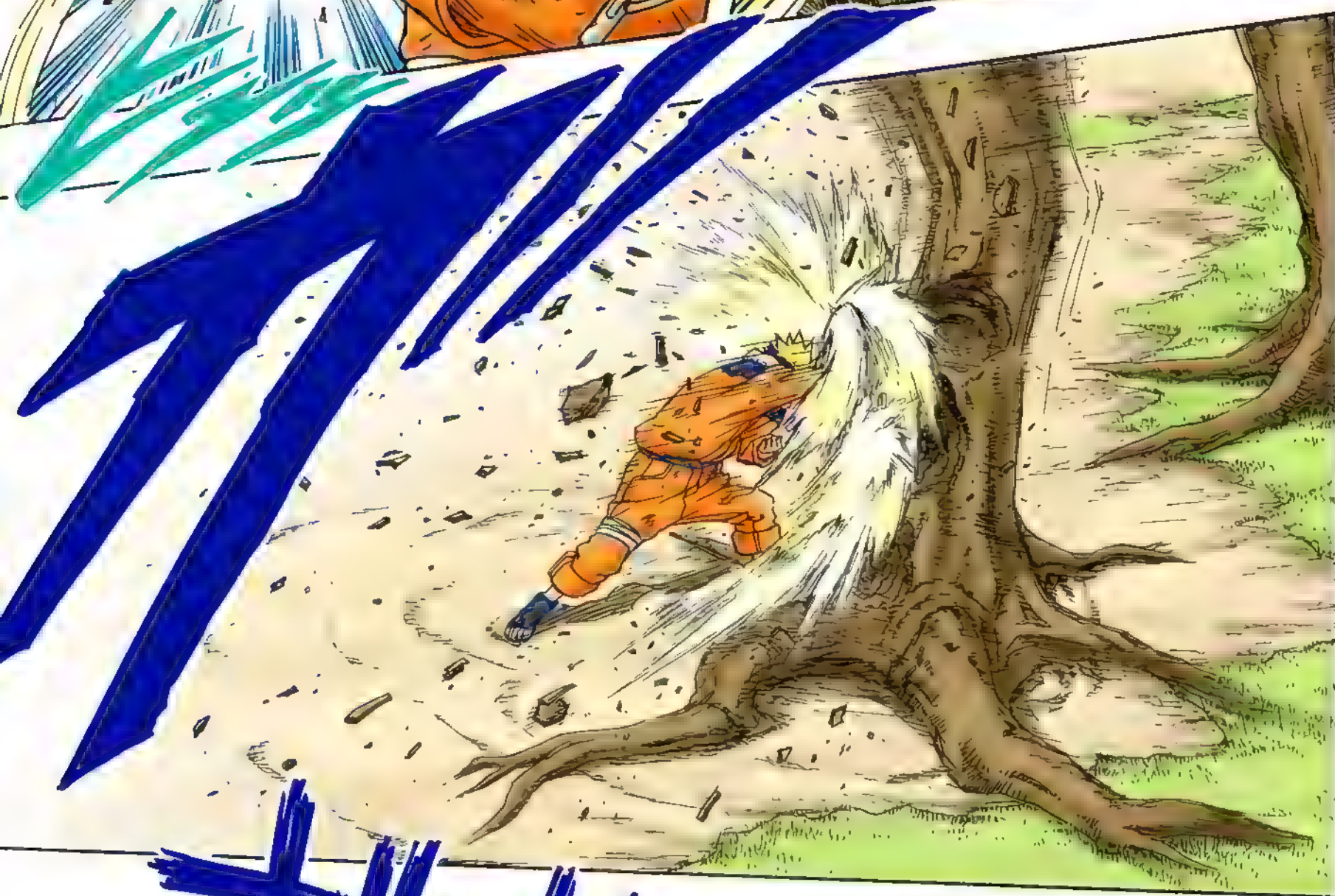


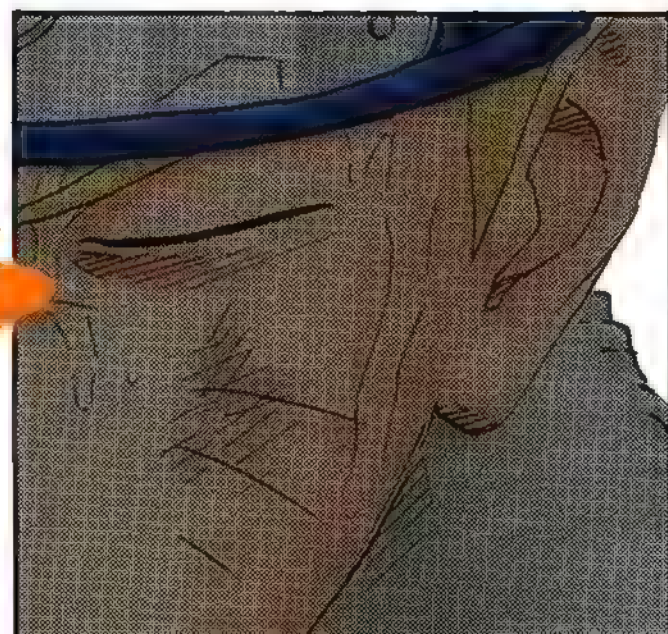
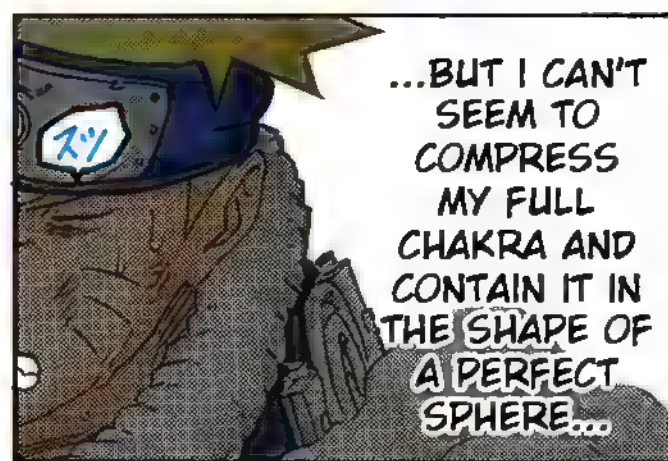
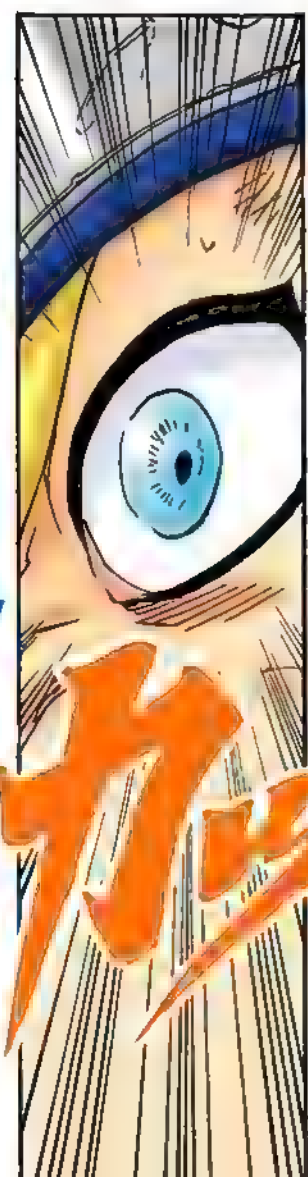
I KNOW HER
BETTER
THAN SHE
KNOWS
HERSELF...!

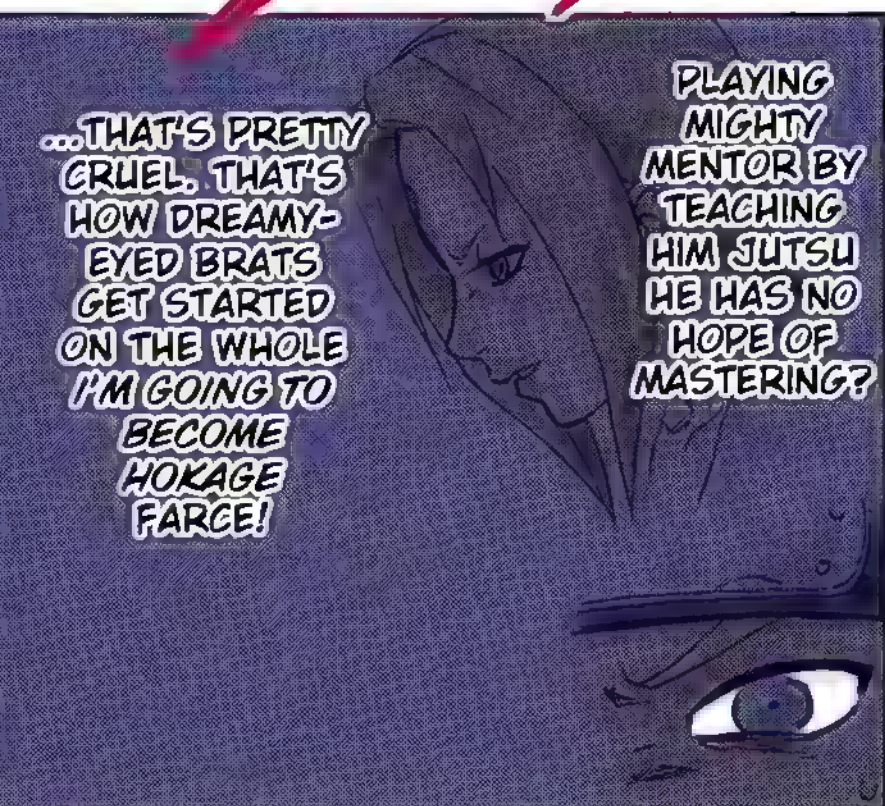
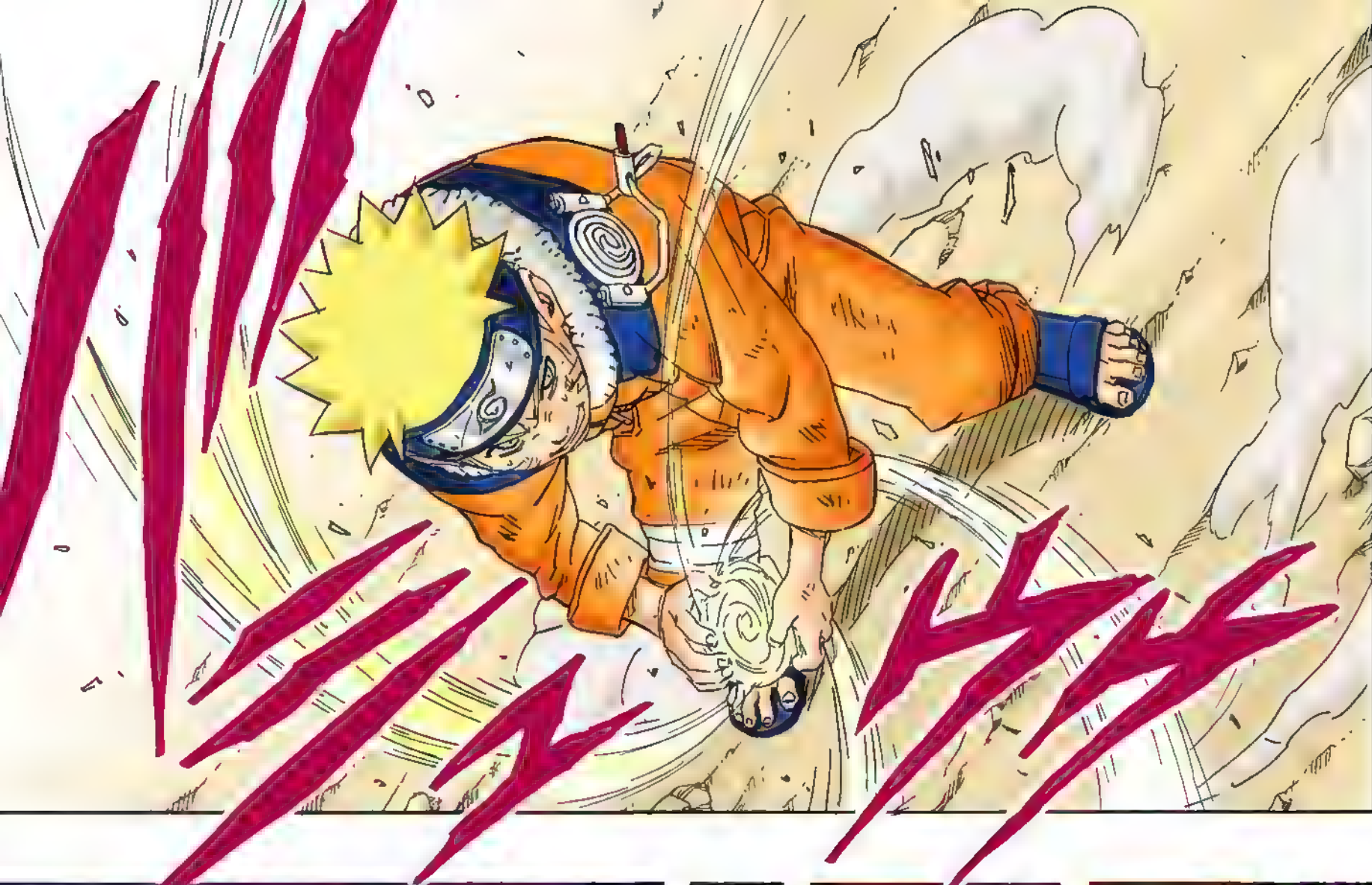
I ALSO
KNOW HER
GREATEST
WEAKNESS.



AND
SO...THE
MORNING
OF THE
THIRD
DAY...

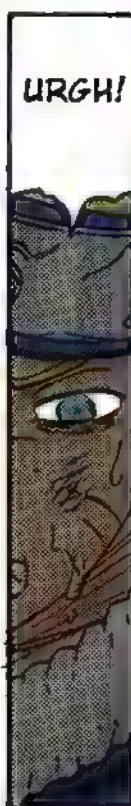




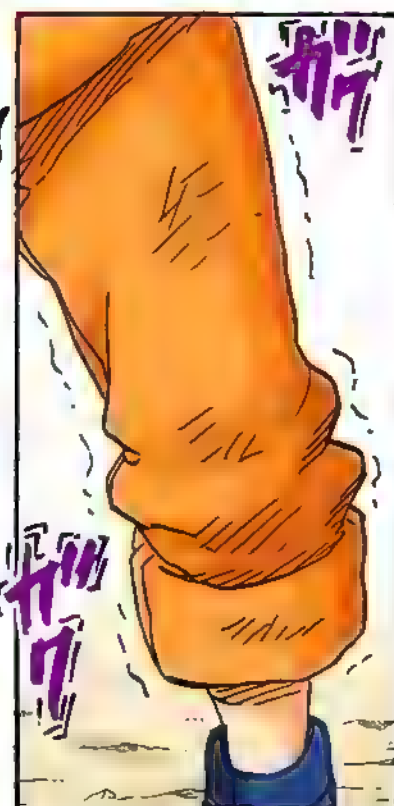


...THAT'S PRETTY
CRUEL. THAT'S
HOW DREAMY-
EYED BRATS
GET STARTED
ON THE WHOLE
I'M GOING TO
BECOME
HOKAGE
FARCE!

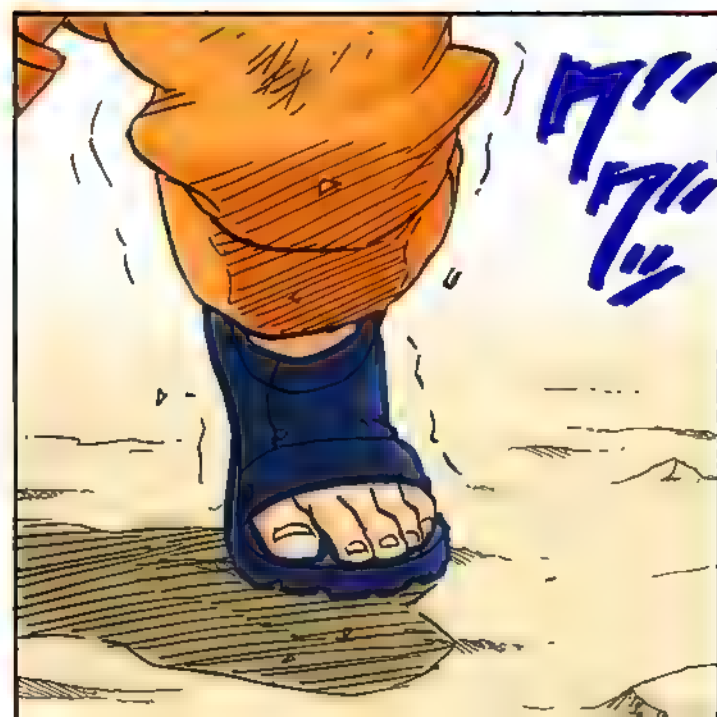
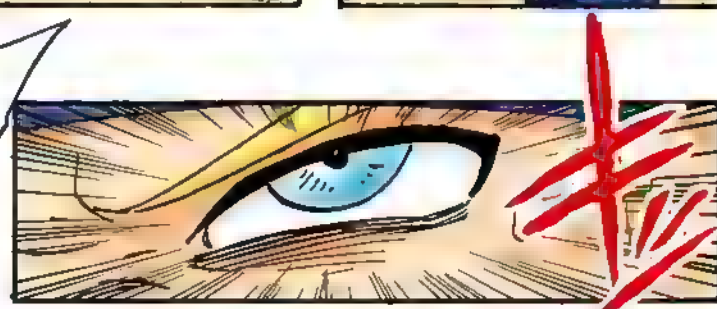
PLAYING
MIGHTY
MENTOR BY
TEACHING
HIM JUTSU
HE HAS NO
HOPE OF
MASTERING?



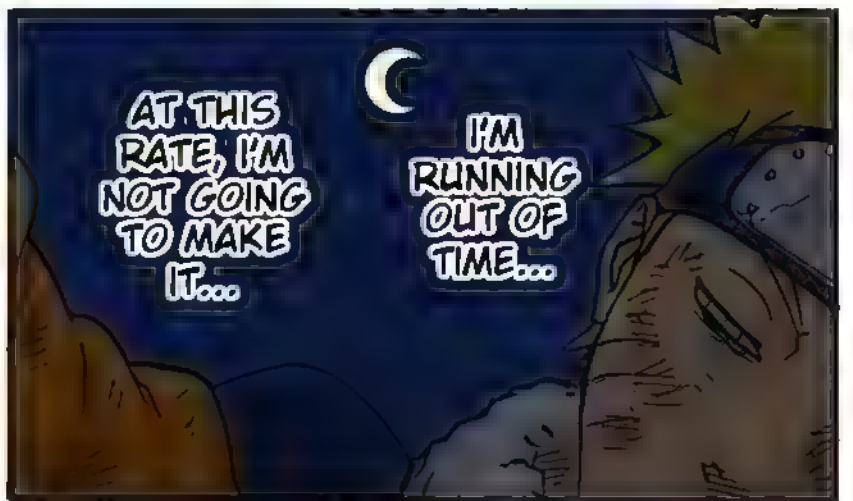
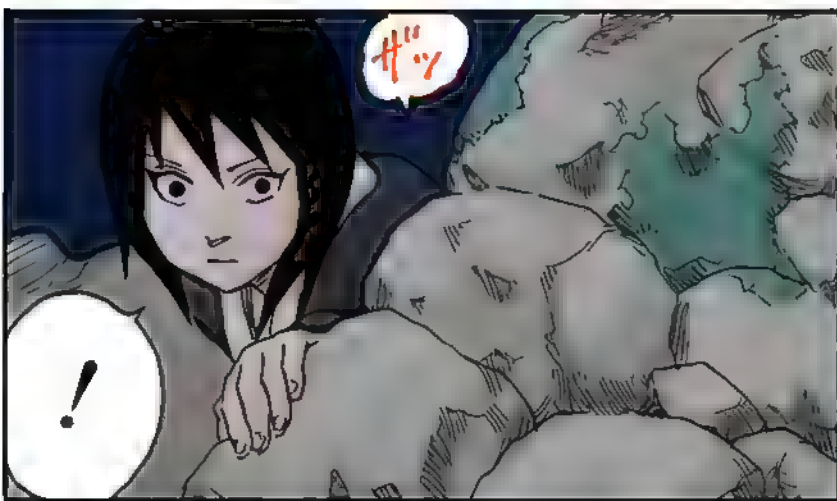
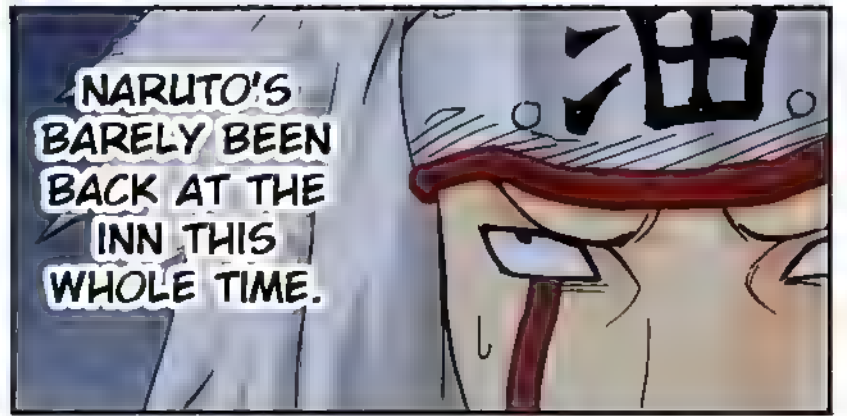
URGH!

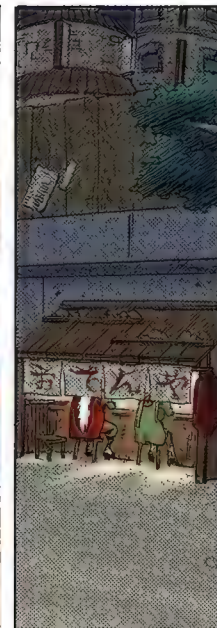
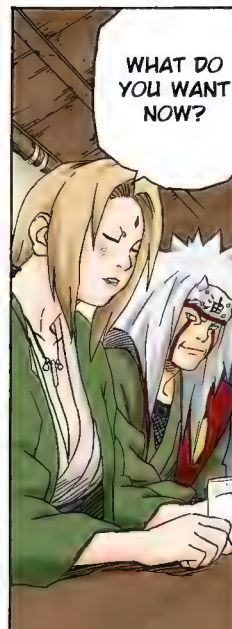
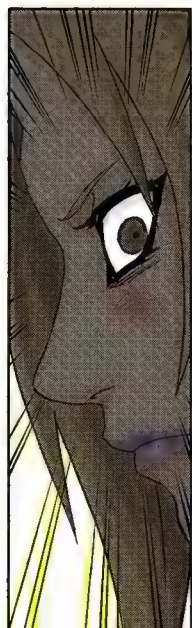
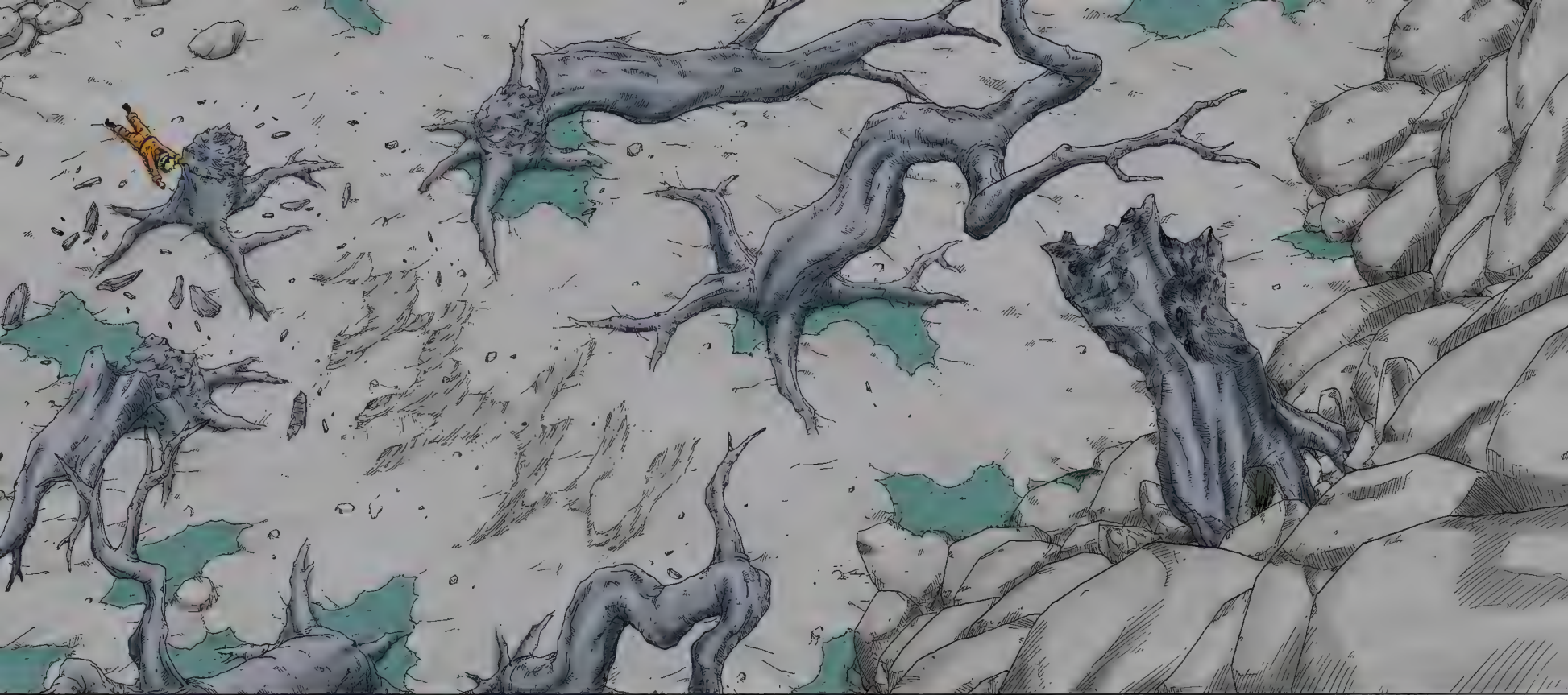


ROOOOAR!!!

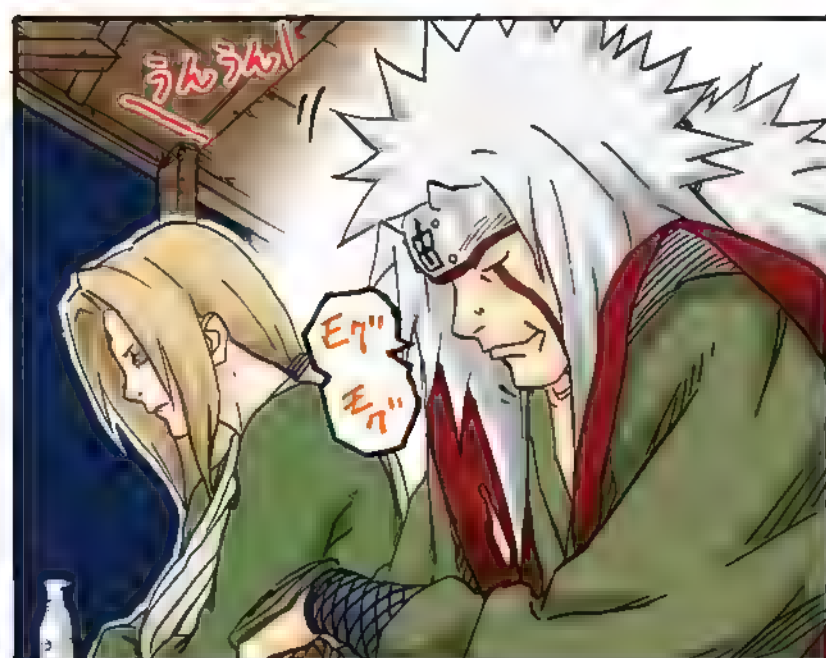
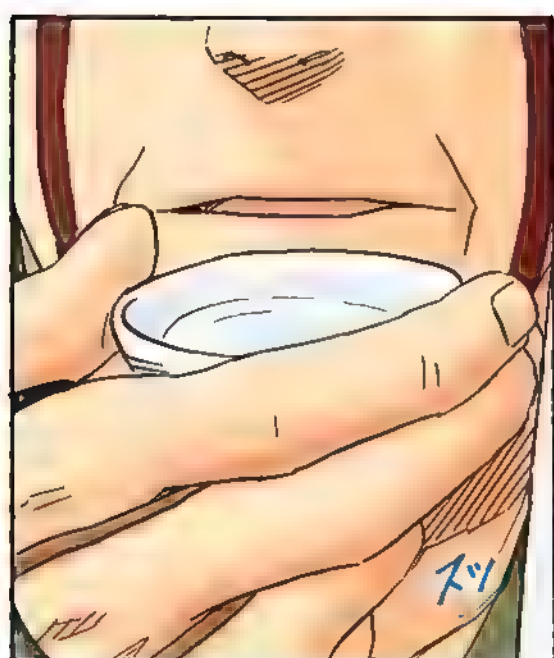
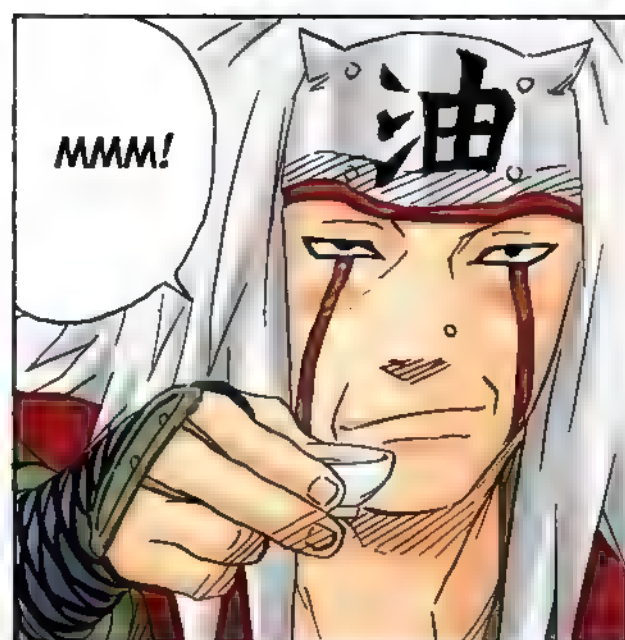
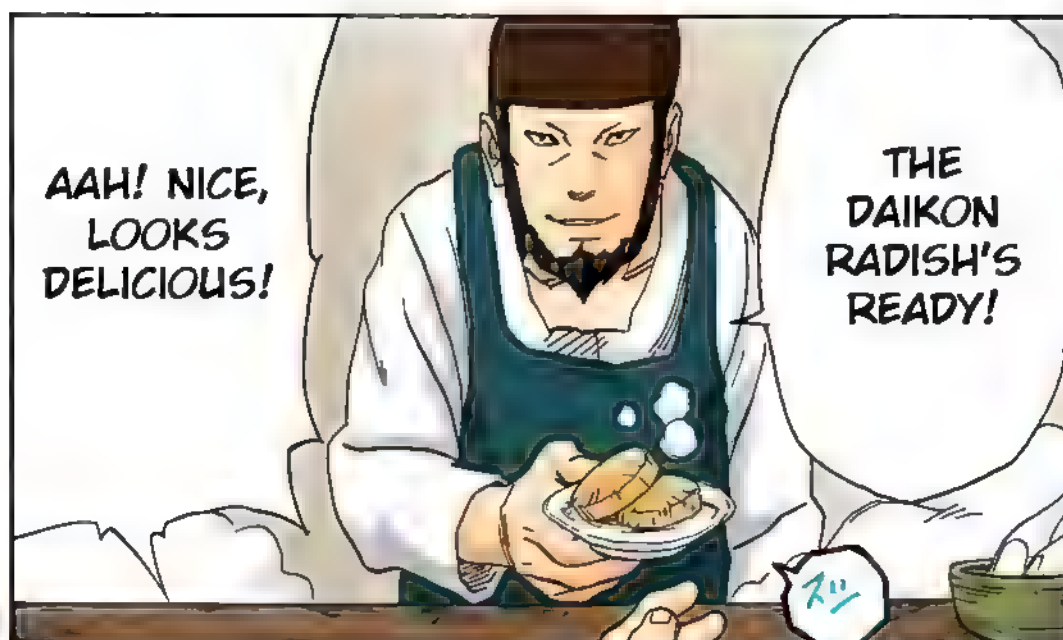


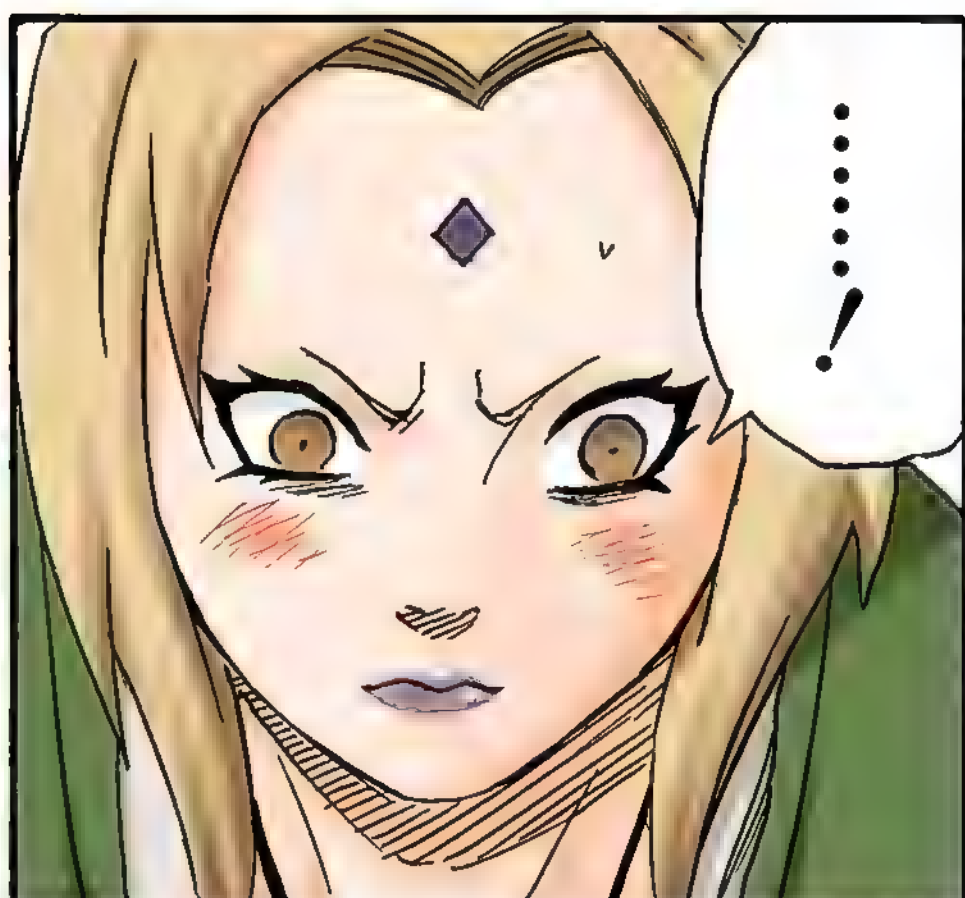


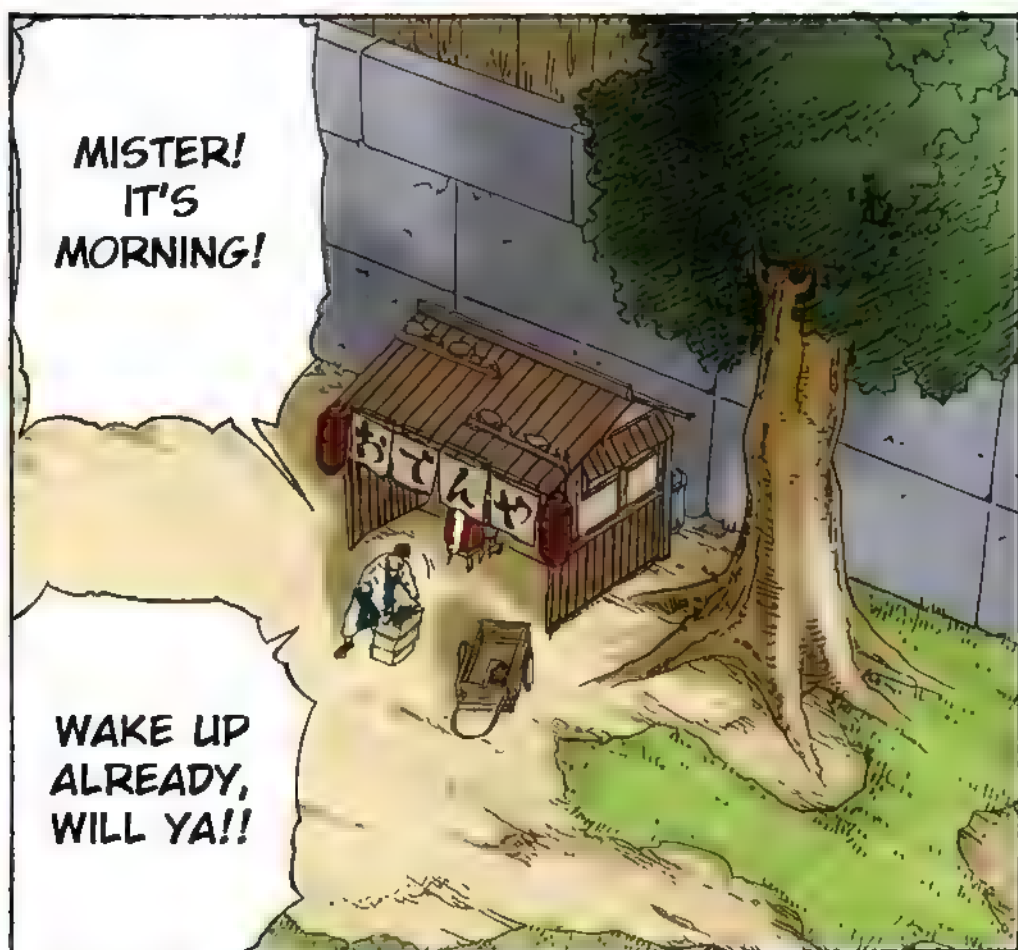














ナンバー

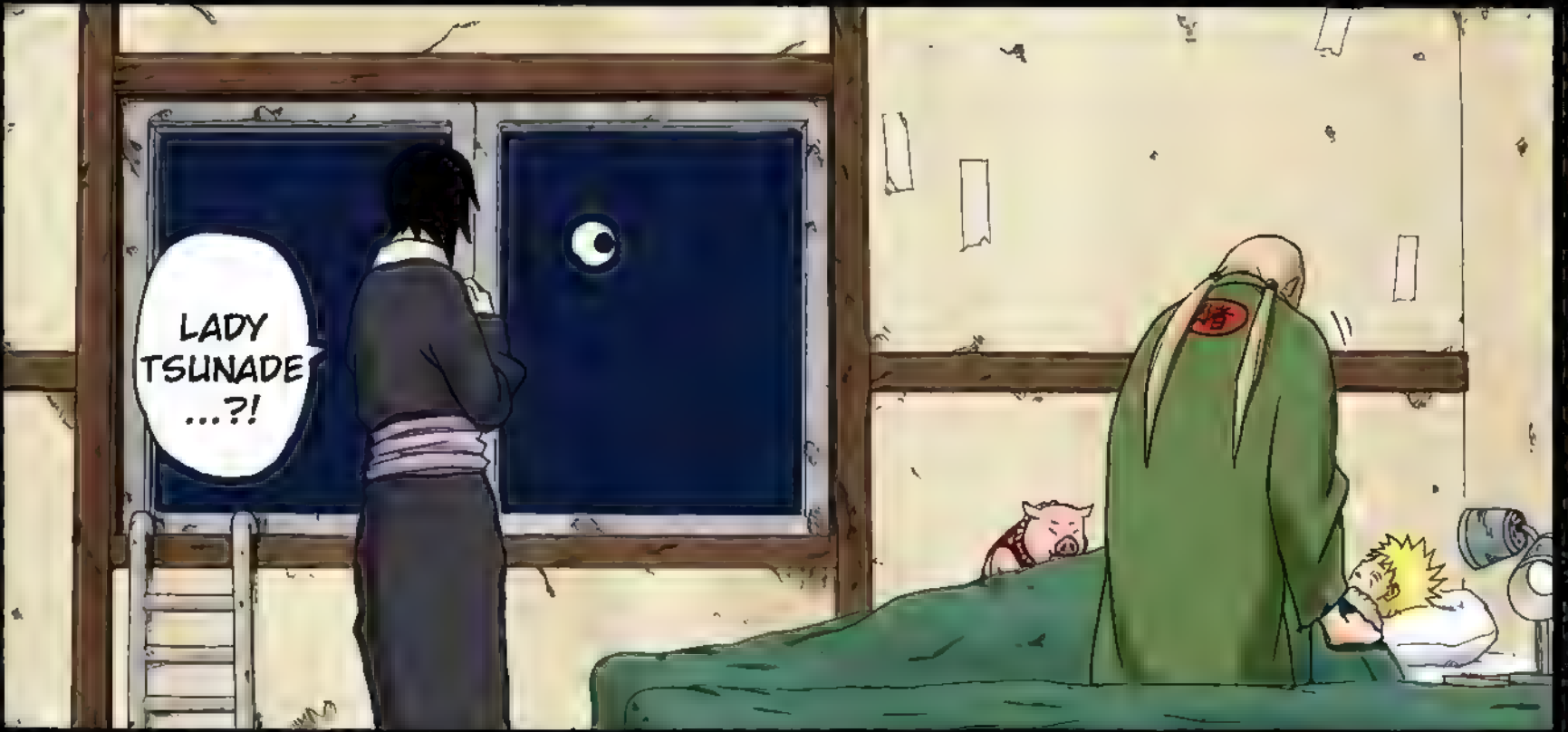
162 :

A VULNERABLE HEART...!!

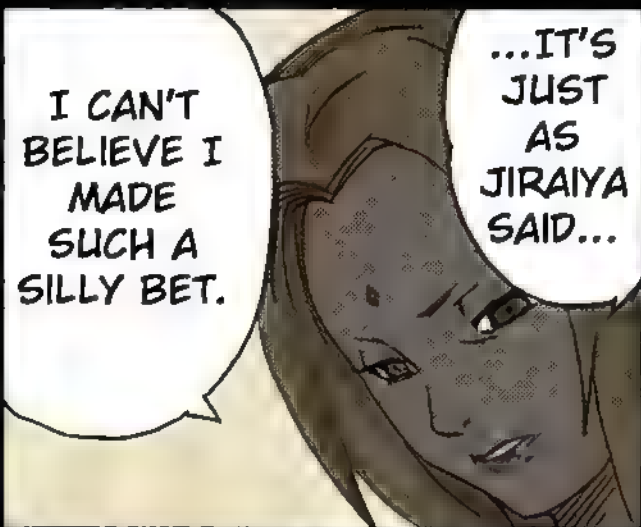
NARUTO

--ナルト--





LADY
TSUNADE
...?!



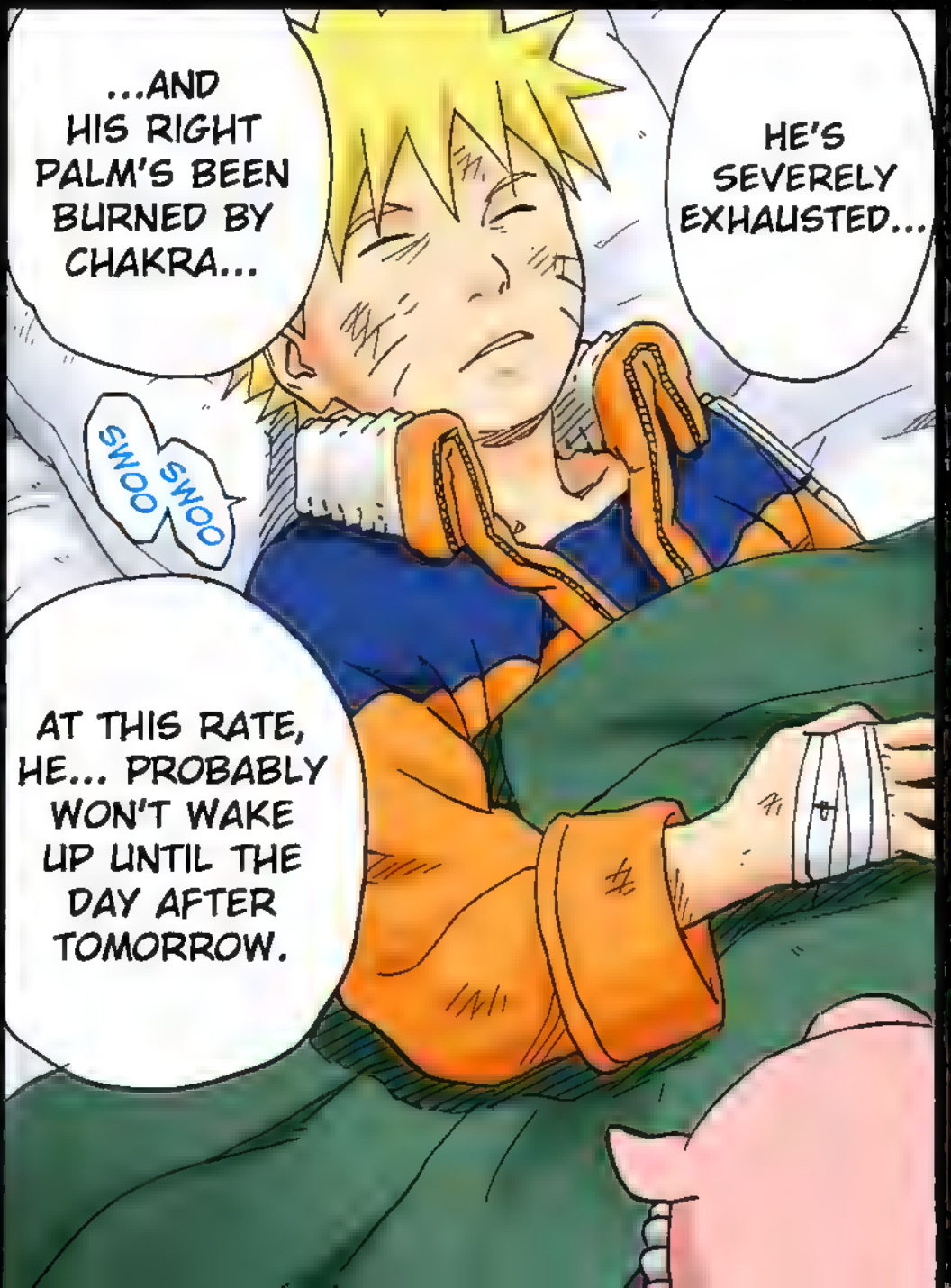
I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
MADE
SUCH A
SILLY BET.

...IT'S
JUST
AS
JIRAIYA
SAID...



I WAS
SUCH A
FOOL.

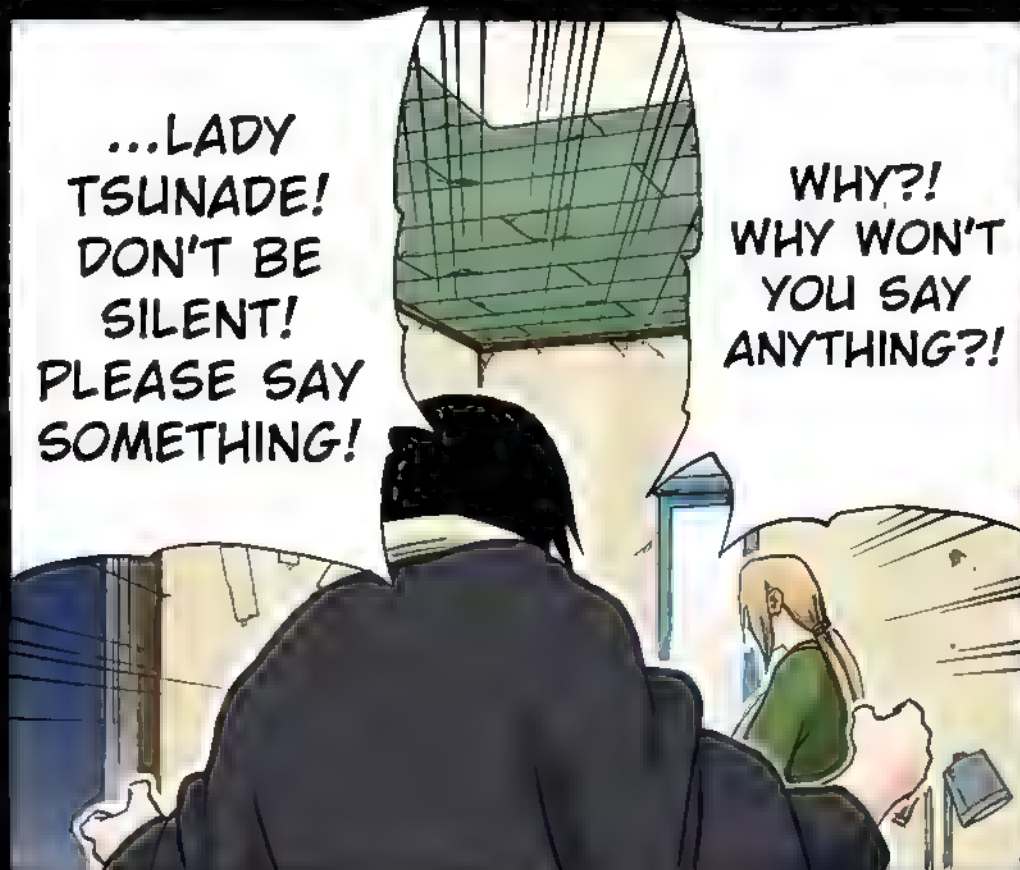
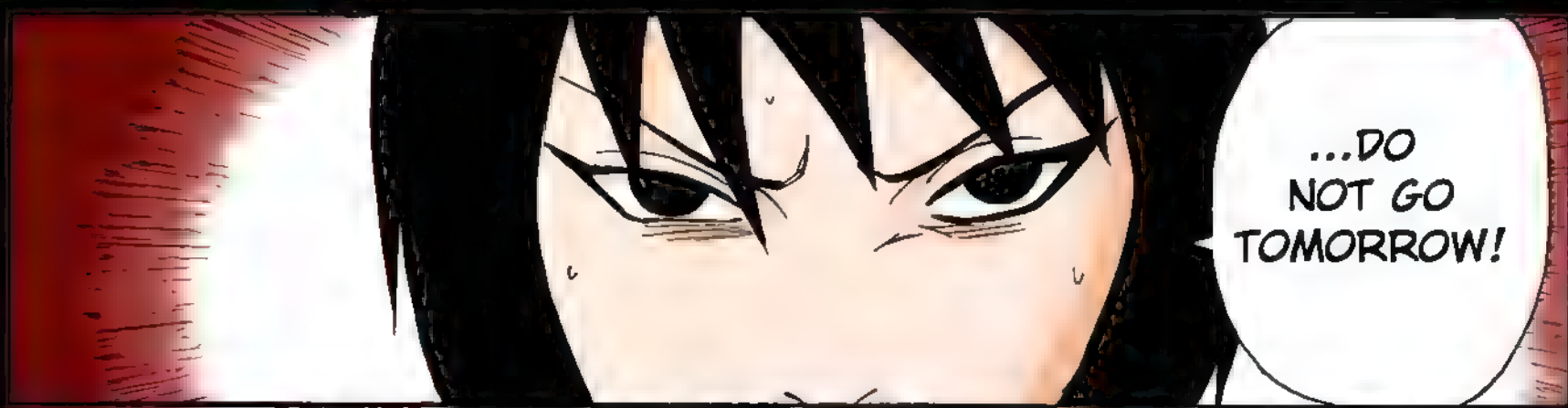
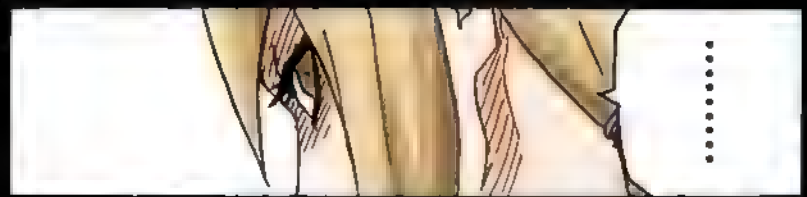
HO HO.. I
SHOCKED
MYSELF WITH
MY OWN
PASSIONATE
REACTION...

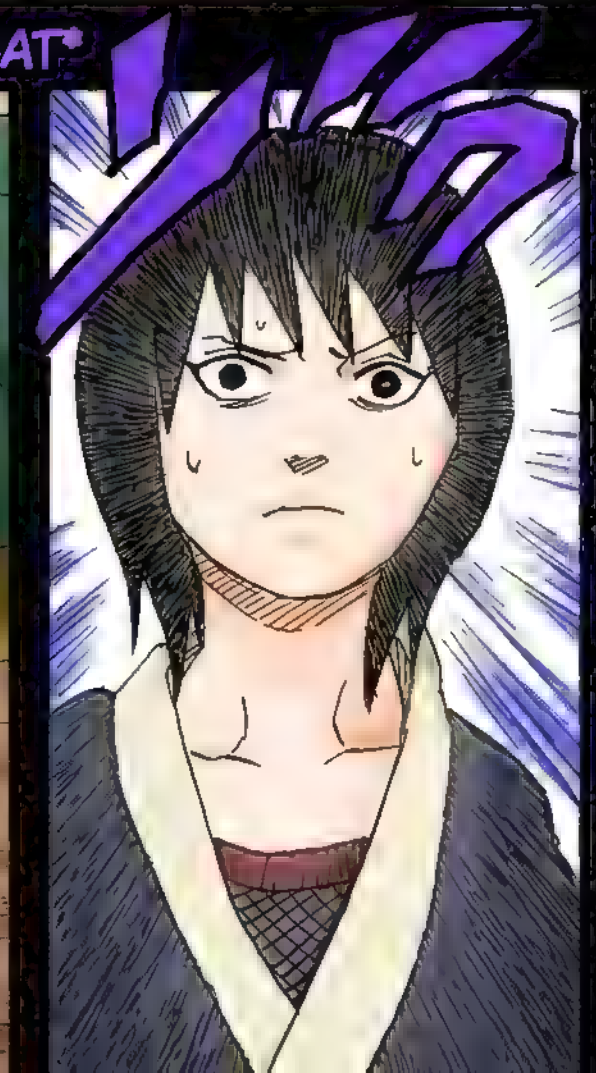
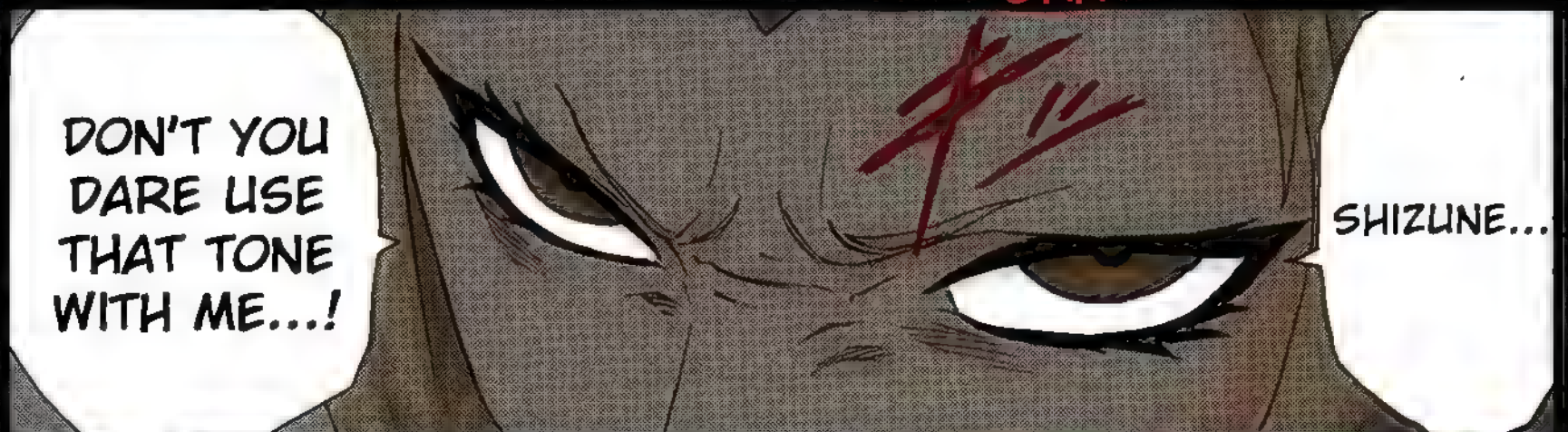
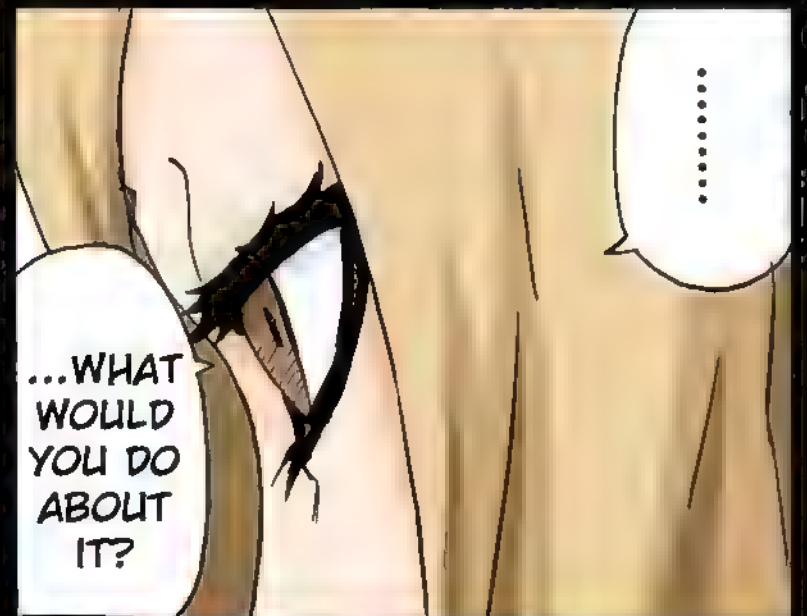


...AND
HIS RIGHT
PALM'S BEEN
BURNED BY
CHAKRA...

HE'S
SEVERELY
EXHAUSTED...

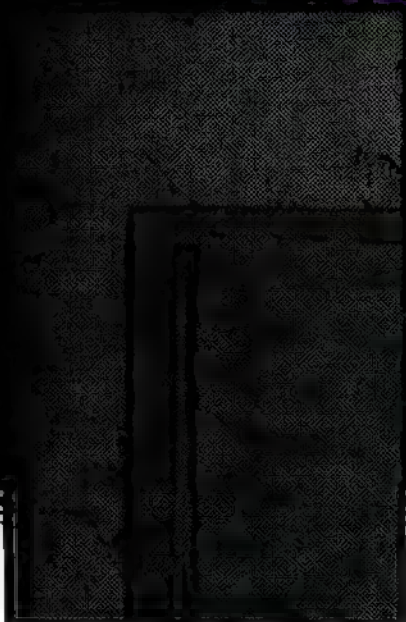
AT THIS RATE,
HE... PROBABLY
WON'T WAKE
UP UNTIL THE
DAY AFTER
TOMORROW.



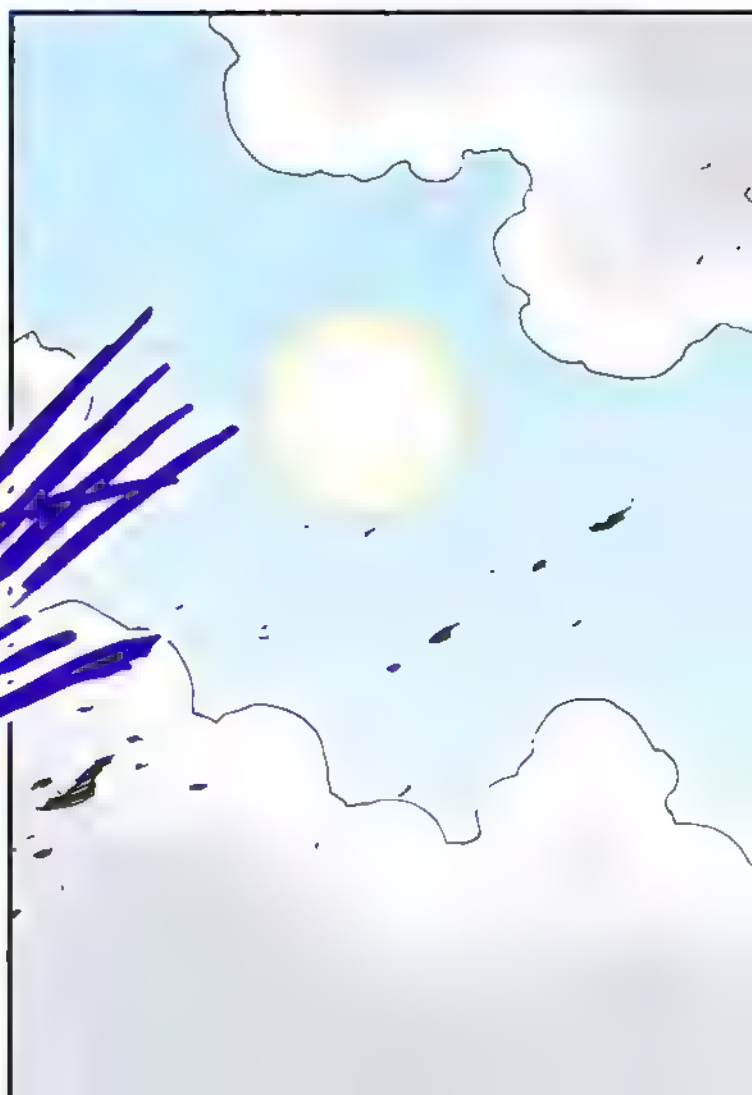
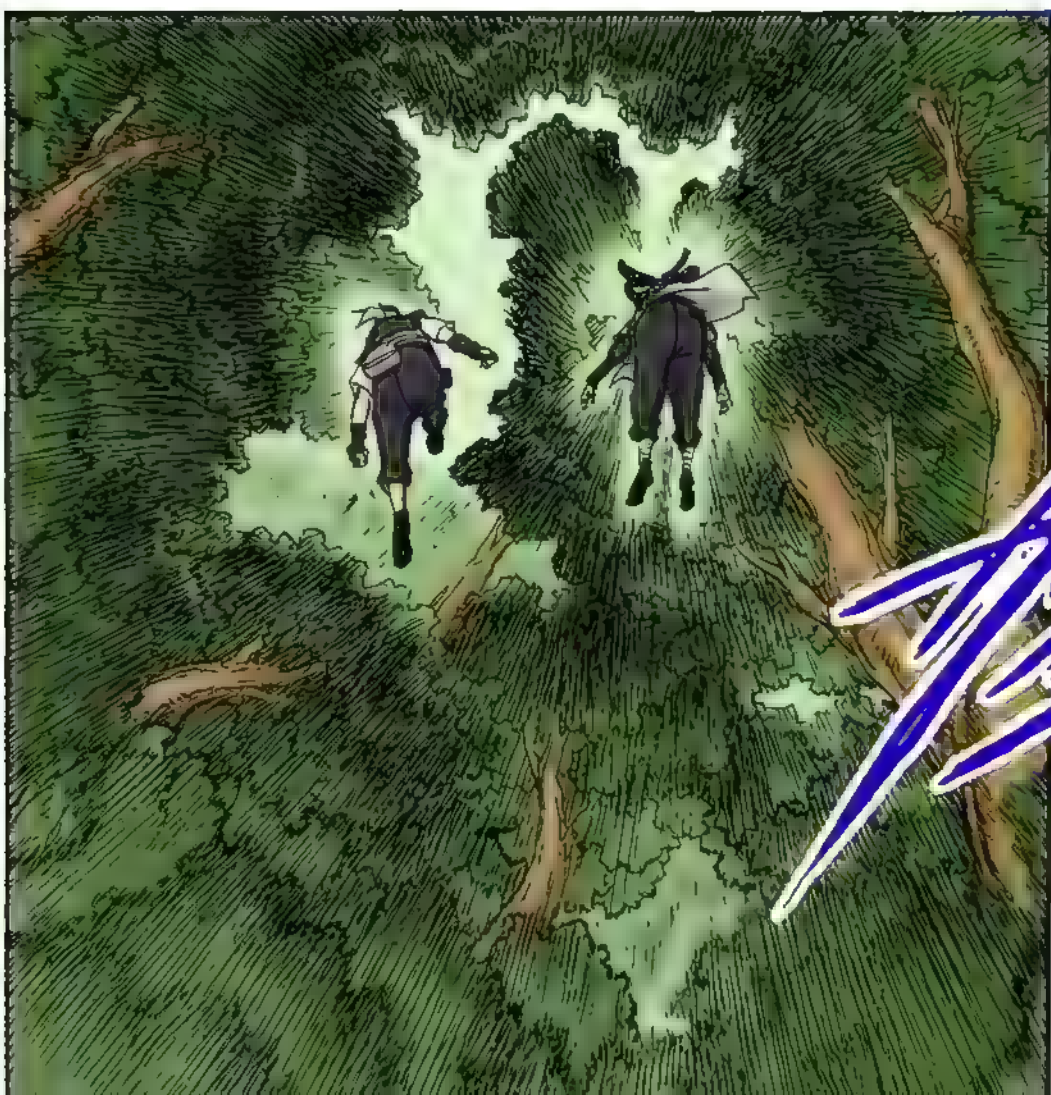


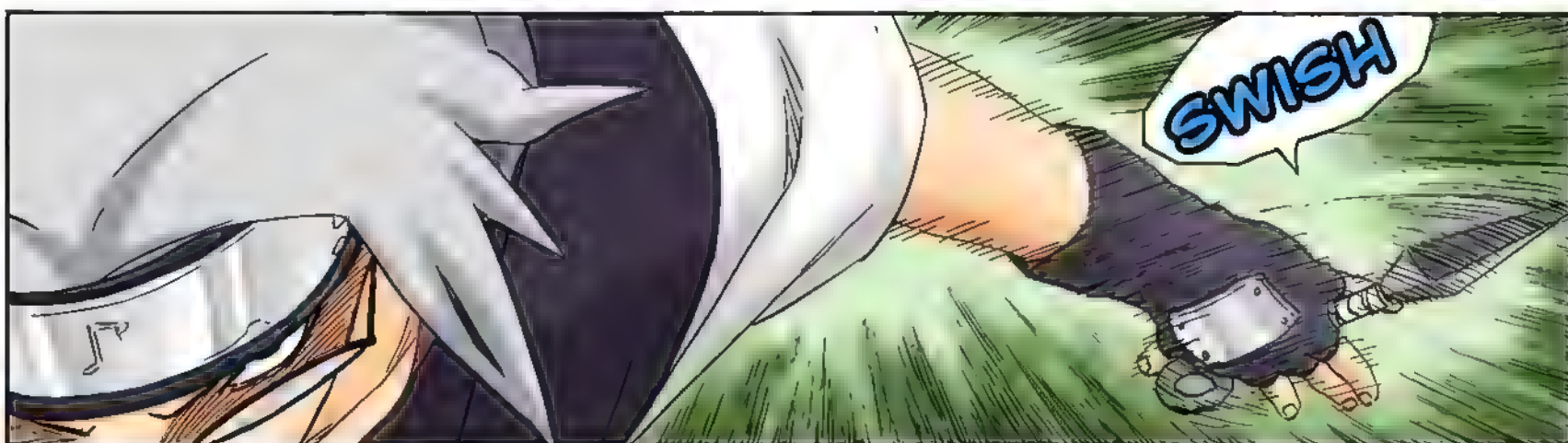
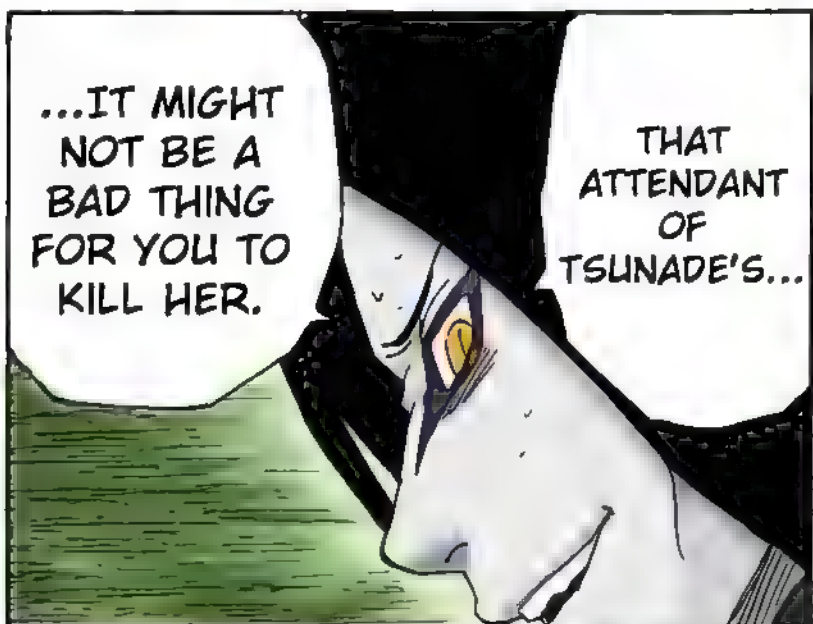
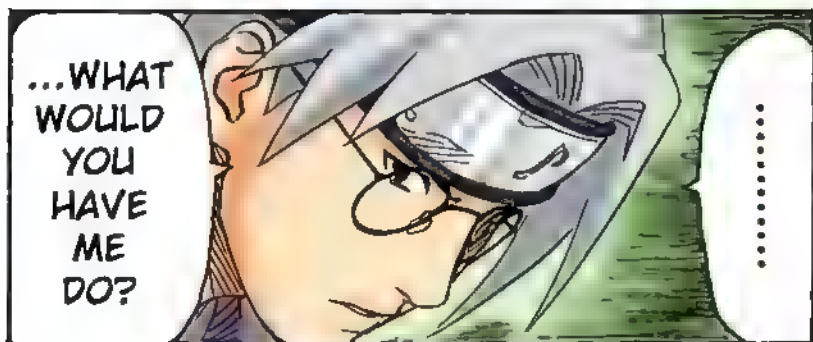


KLOD

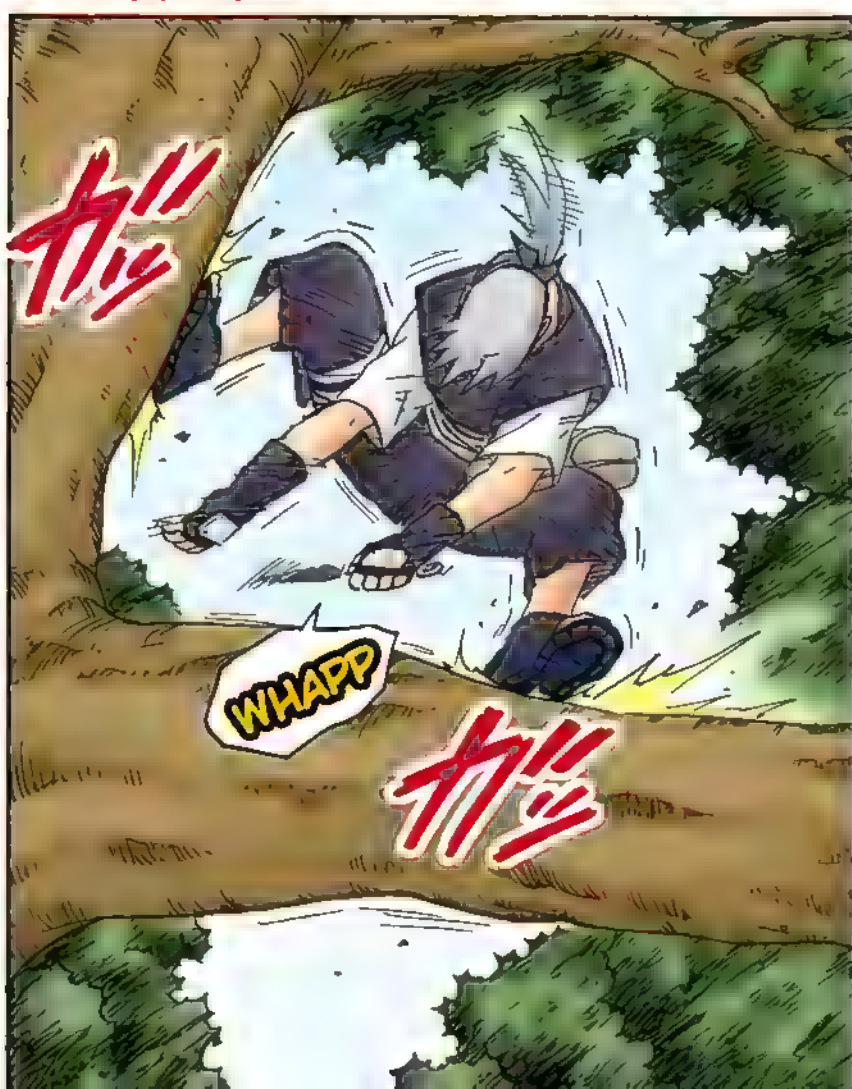


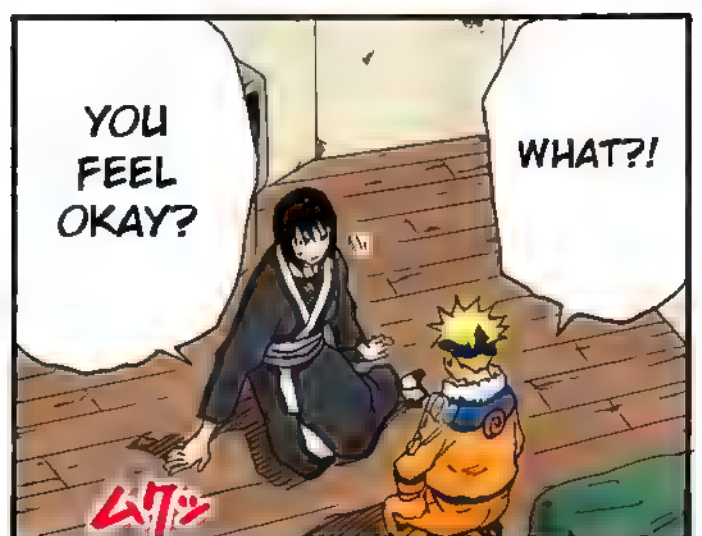
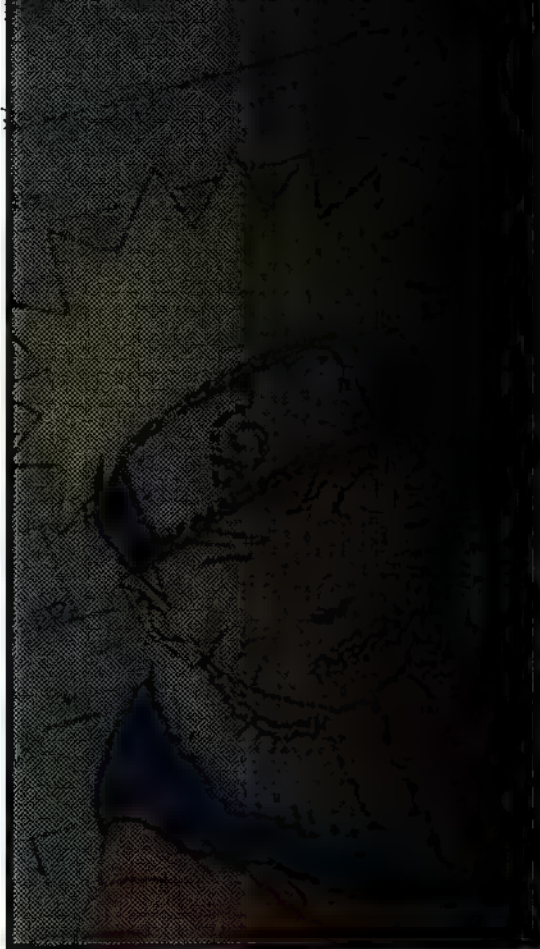
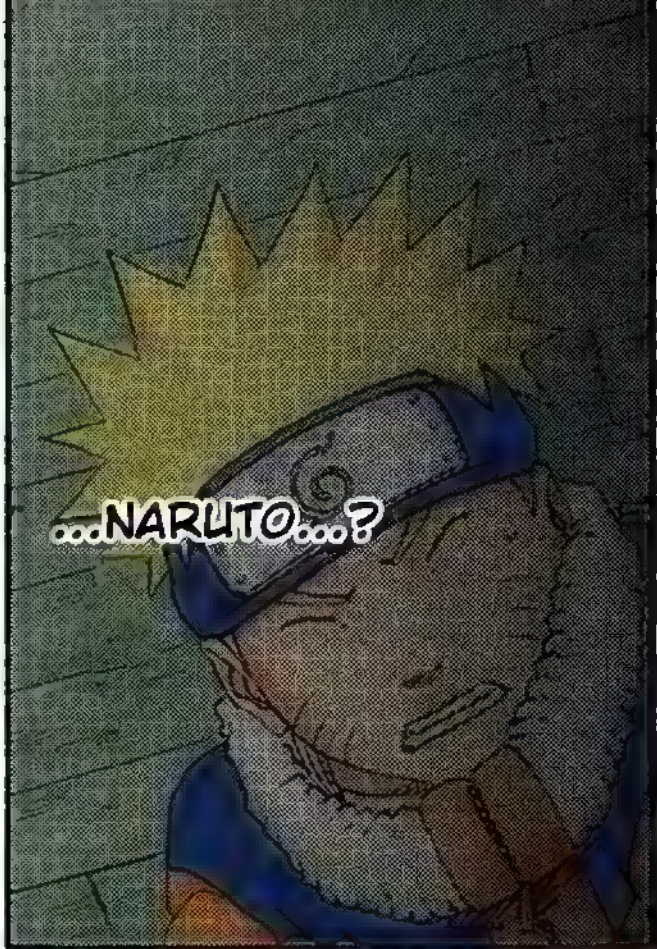
VOOSH

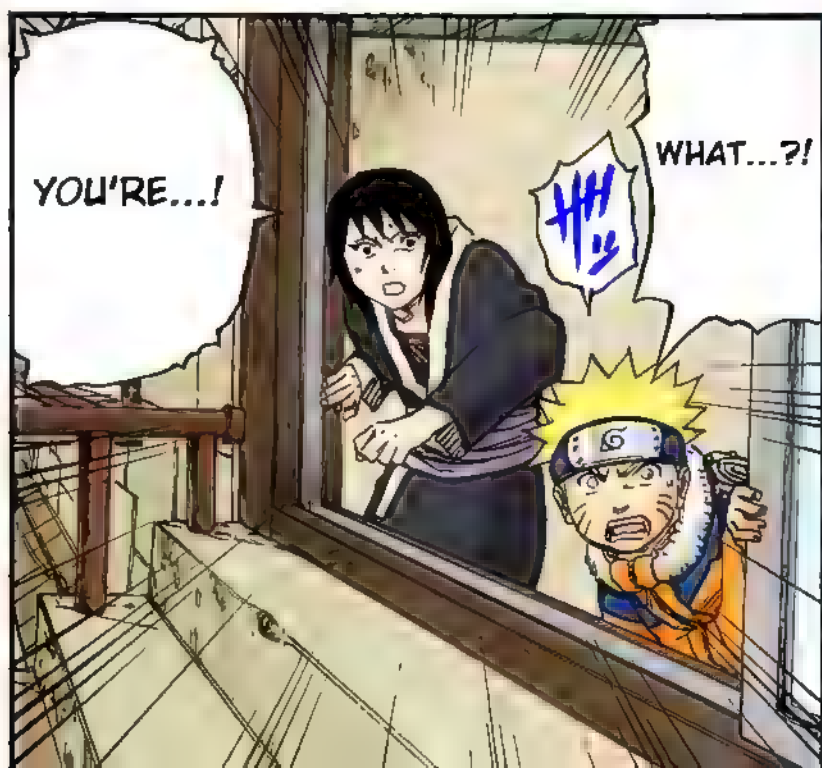


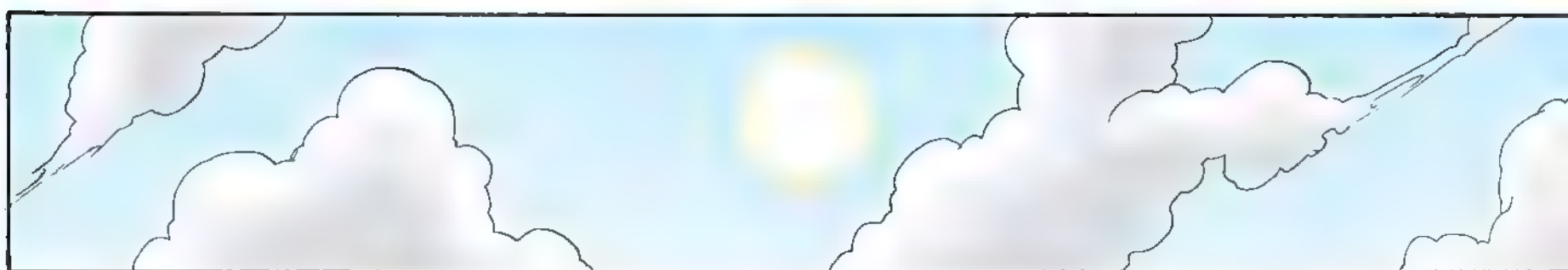


SKREECH







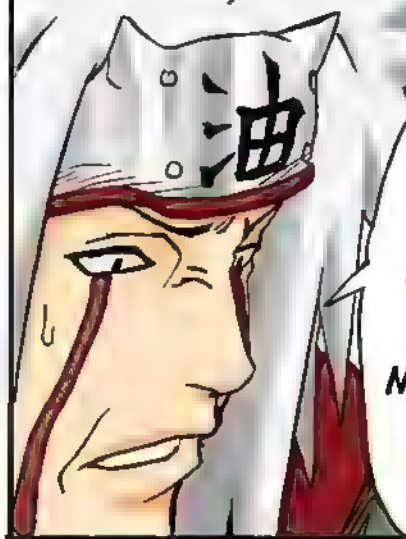




.....

SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN COMPOUND A TASTELESS AND ODORLESS DRUG THAT CAN BE USED AGAINST OTHER SHINOBI.

SHE MAY BE RUSTY, BUT SHE'S STILL A MEDIC SPECIALIST...



...ALTHOUGH I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WAS ABLE TO SLIP IT TO ME, NO MATTER HOW DRUNK I WAS!

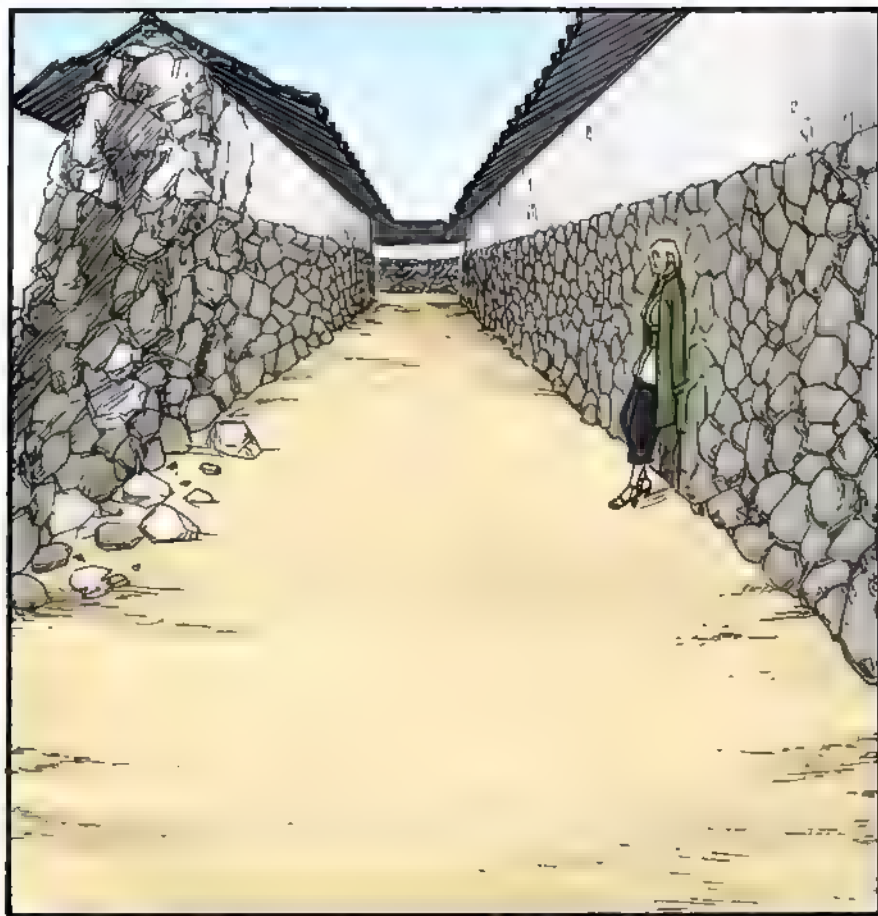


SO WRONG, MAN!!

YOU, WHO KEEPS BRAGGING ABOUT HOW GREAT A NINJA HE IS?!

SHUT UP!

DID YOU FALL FOR SOME PERVY ATTACK OR SOMETHING?!



...NOW THIS IS
REALLY GETTING
TROUBLESOME...MY
BEST COURSE IS
WITHDRAW AND
REPORT TO LORD
OROCHIMARU...

...I WOULD
NEVER HAVE
GUESSED THAT
LORD JIRAIYA
HIMSELF
WOULD SHOW
UP HERE...

...ARE HERE...
INTERESTING...

EVEN YOU,
NARUTO...

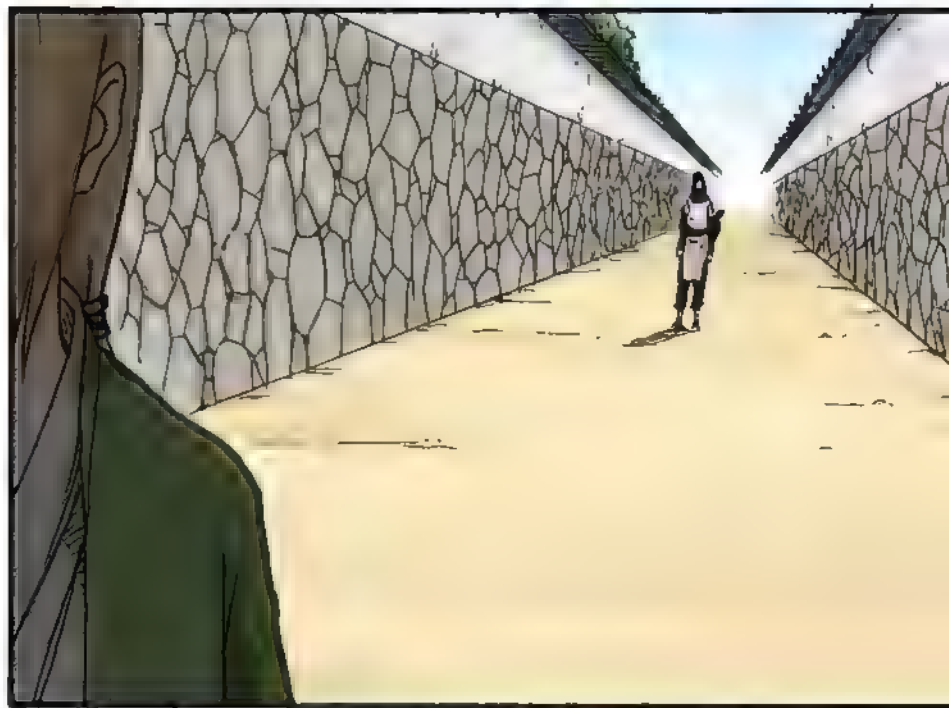
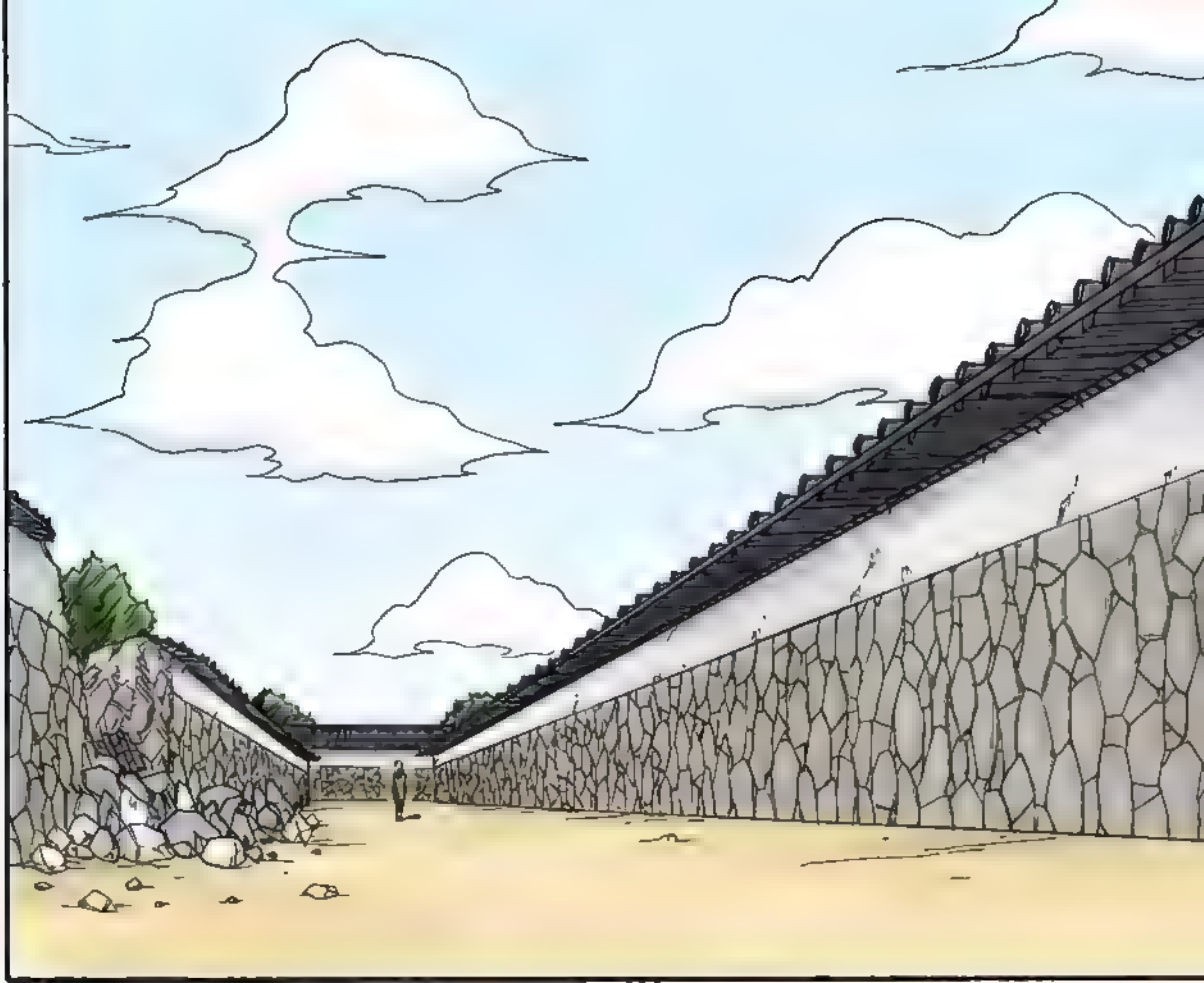
SO,
SHIZUNE!

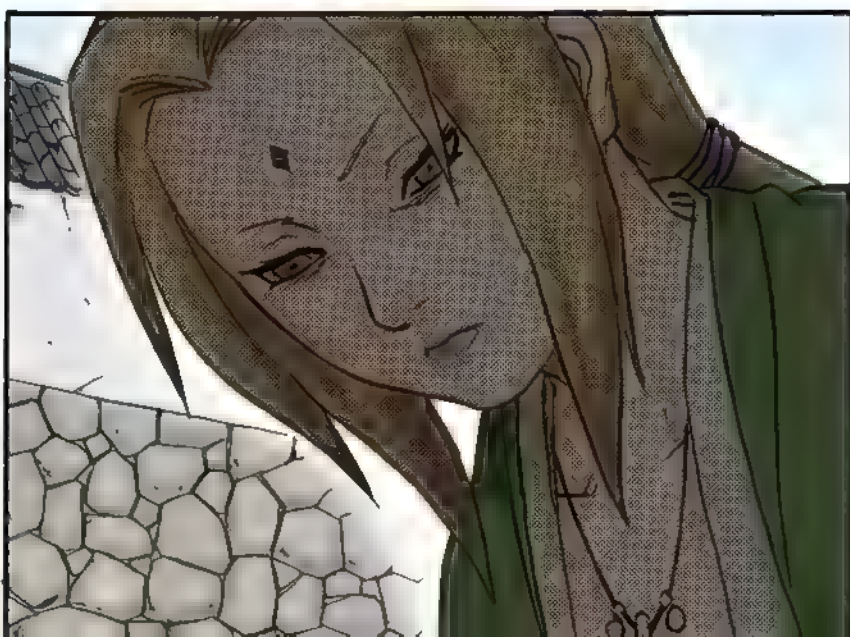
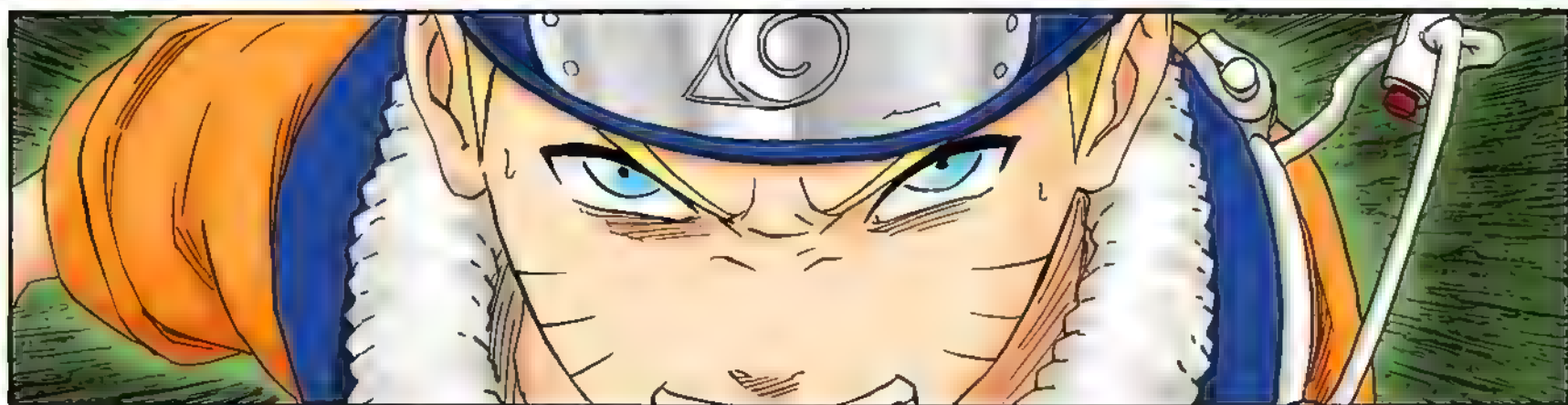
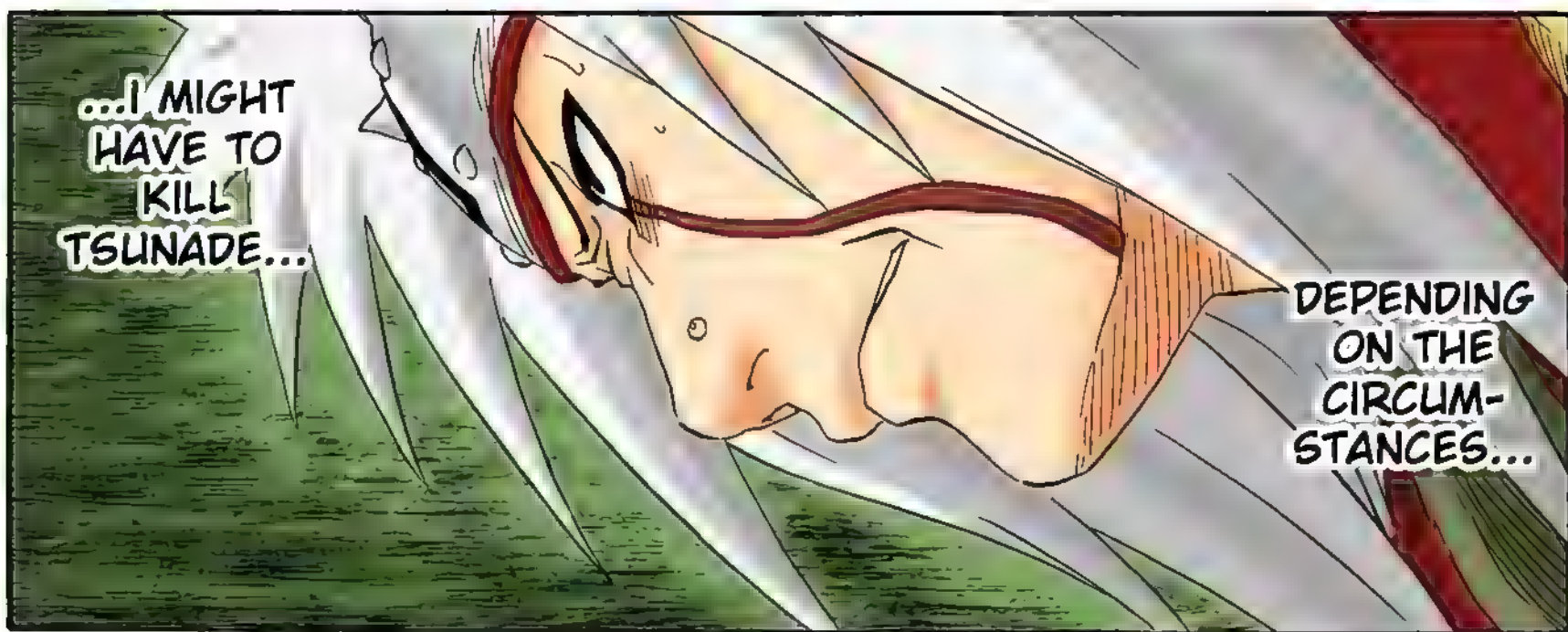
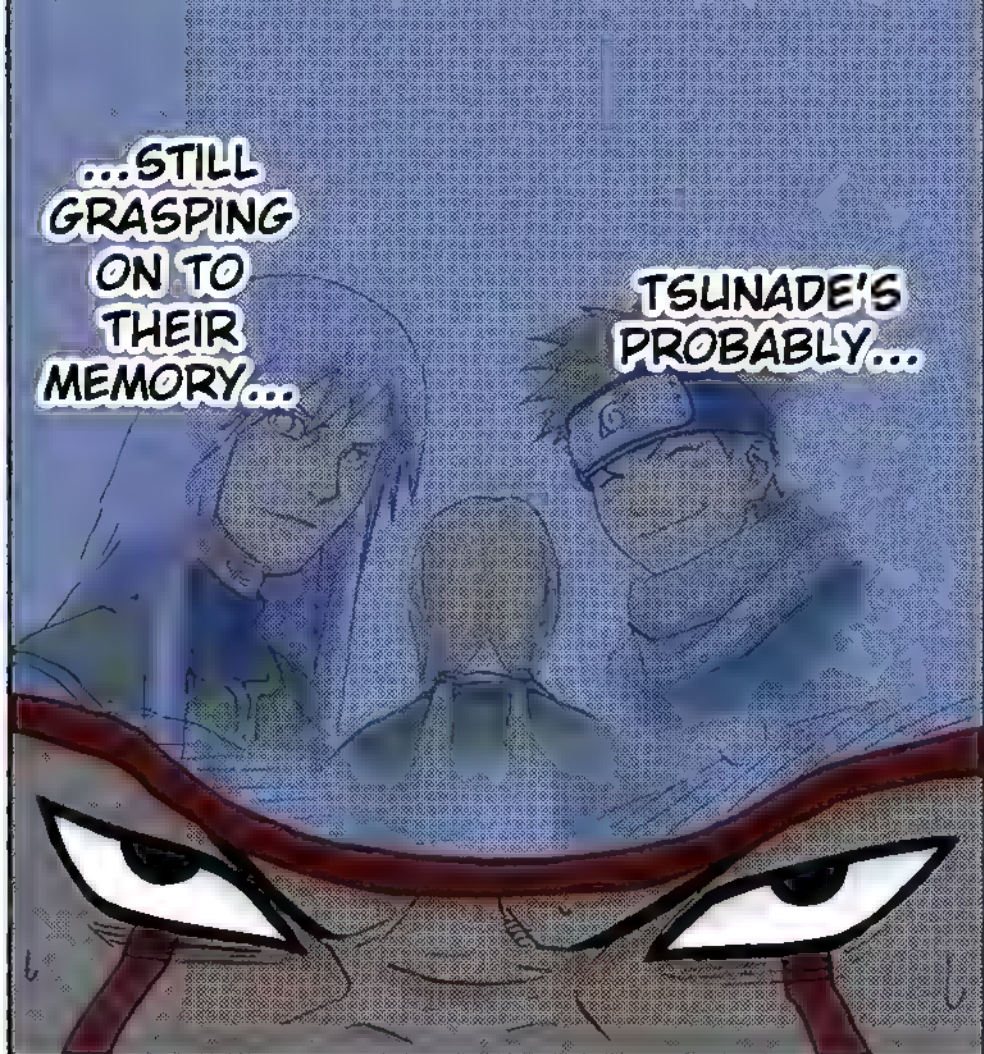
アッ

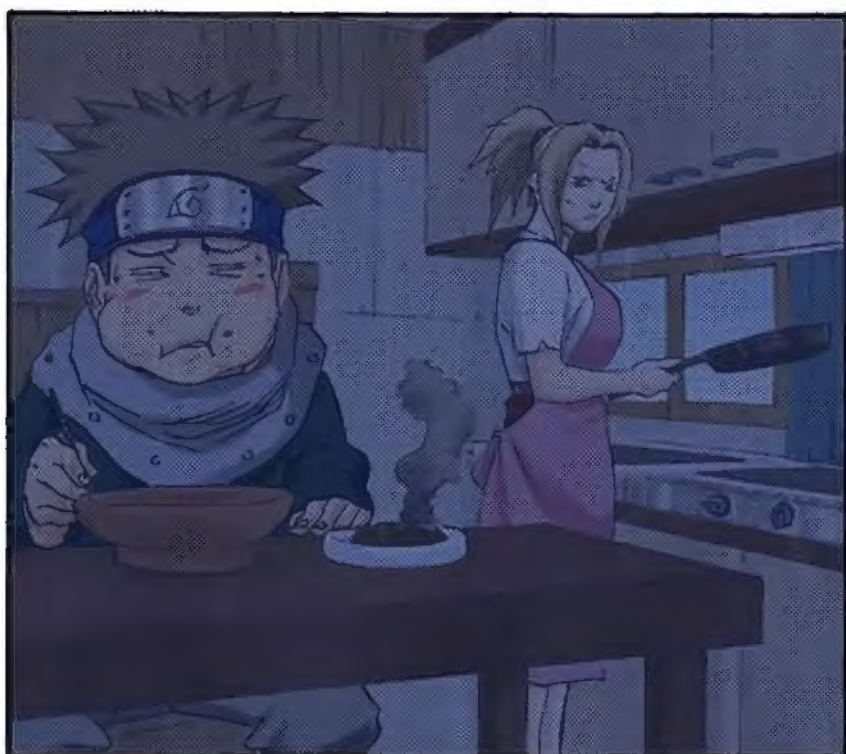
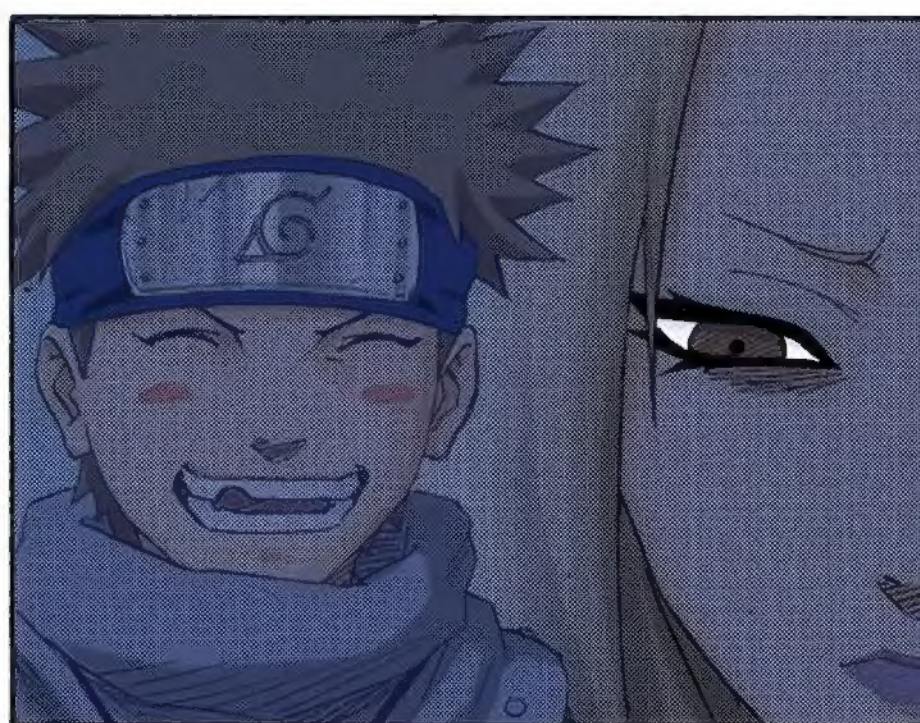
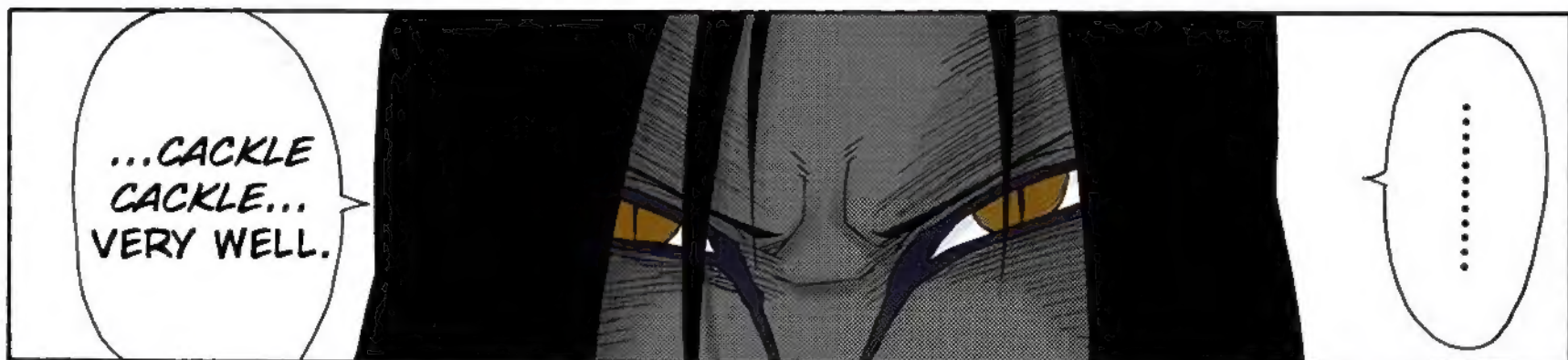
油

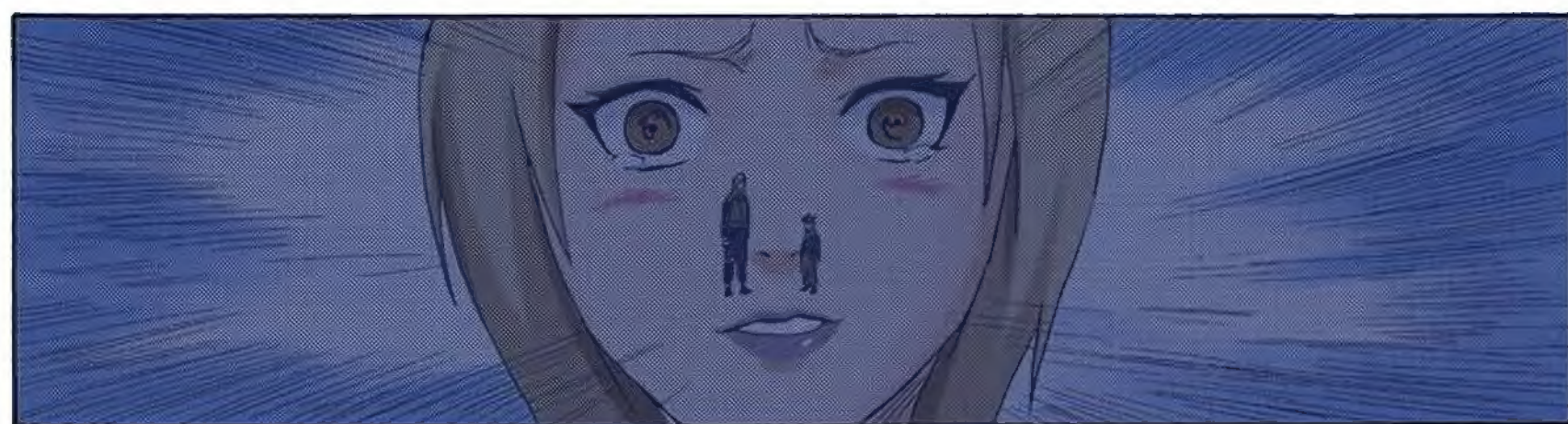
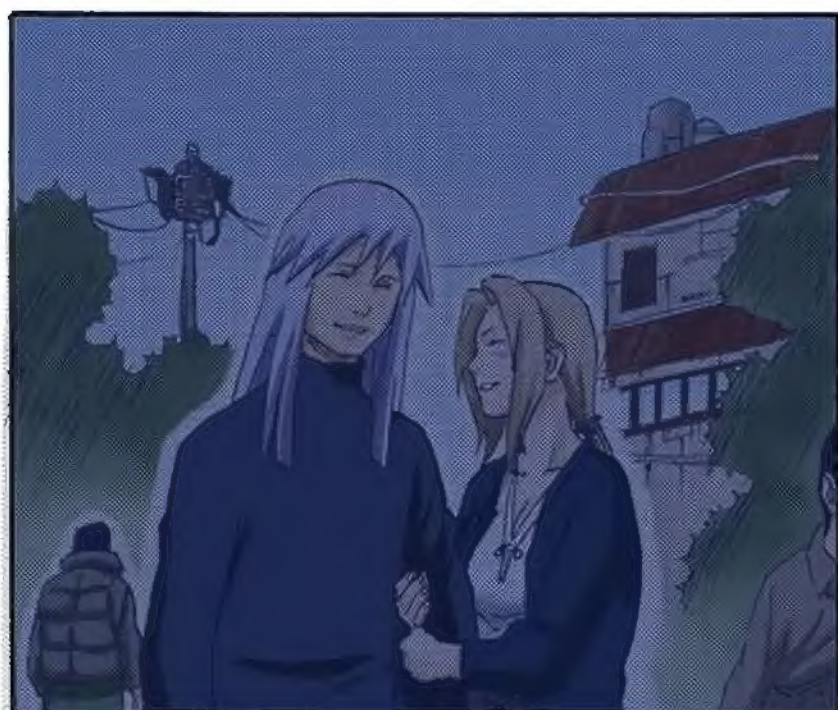
!



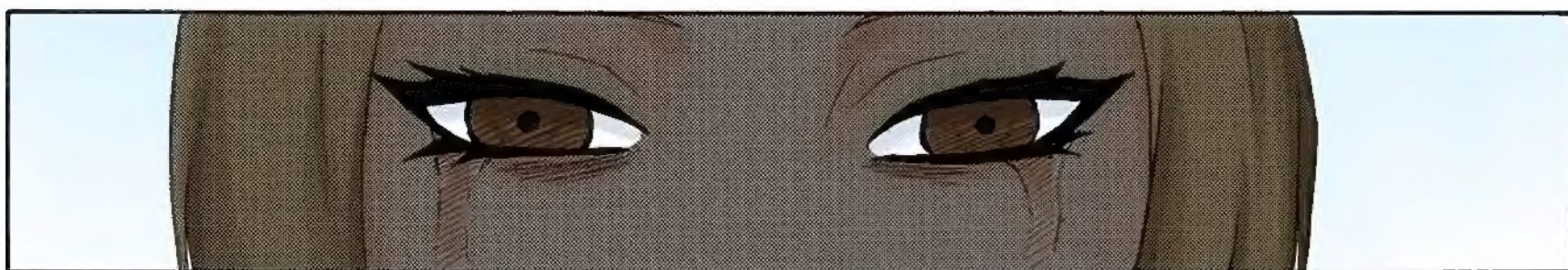
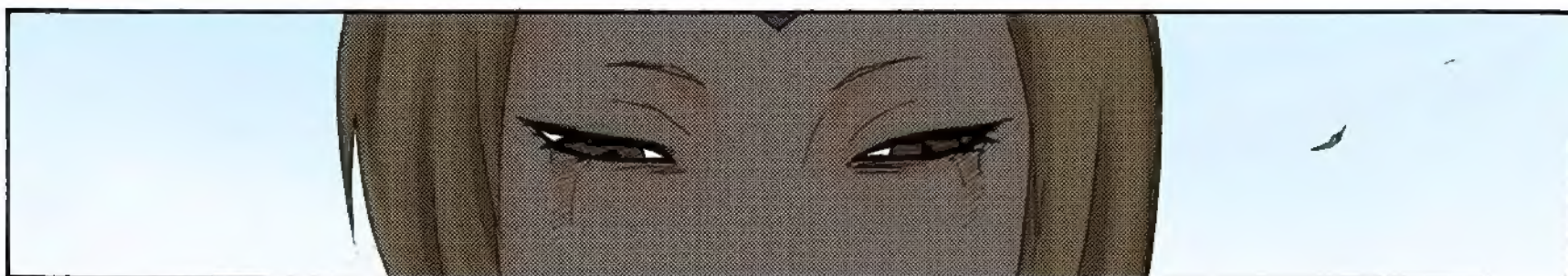












TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 19!!